STARS STRIPES.

Manning passes on shot at record. **but Colts win**



DODDS changes spring break for 1st ID schools



Green Dav's latest CD gets political

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2004

Bush backs Rumsfeld in face of criticism

President also says Iraqi security forces not ready to take over



The Christmas gift is in the mail



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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Celebrex advertising: The maker of best-selling arthritis pain reliever Celebrex said it plans to immediately stop advertising the drug.

The move comes after a study showed high doses of Celebrex were associated with an increased heart attack risk.

New York-based Pfizer Inc. spent more than \$70 million advertising Celebrex to U.S. consumers in the first nine months of this year. Pfizer said it plans to continue marketing the drug to doctors.

Immigrant smuggling: Jurors resumed deliberations Monday in the trial of two men accused of taking part in a deadly immigrant smuggling attempt in which more than 70 people were crammed inside a stifling tractor-trailer near Victoria, Texas.

Nineteen of the illegal immigrants died.

The trial of Victor Jesus Rodriguez and Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar is the first stemming from the deaths in 2003. Five of the 14 people indicted have pleaded guilty.

Kerik flaws: White House investigators knew of many of the flaws that surfaced since Bernard Kerik withdrew as the nominee to lead the Homeland Security Department, Andrew Card, President Bush's chief of staff, said Sunday.

Kerik, 49, withdrew his name from consideration on Dec. 10, saying he had employed an illegal alien as a nanny and had failed to submit required Social Security payments. Card did not say whether a decision was

Card did not say whether a decision was made that Kerik's shortcomings should be overlooked to approve his nomination. "It was Bernie Kerik's decision not to go forward." Card said.

Business

Microsoft-EU relations: Microsoft Corp. renewed its offer Monday to resume negotiations with the European Union in their five-year antitrust battle, saying it would do so immediately after a court rules this week on whether to suspend an order forcing the software signat to change business practices.

The two sides were involved in settlement talks before EU antitrust regulators fined Microsoft a record \$666 million and told the company to reveal some of its trade secrets to competitors and produce a Windows platform without its digital Media Player.

A decision had been expected as early as ast Friday.

Fannie Mae problems: The board of Fannie Mae has been discussing a possible executive shake-up as the embattled mortgage giant responds to regulators' allegations of accounting violations and faces a likely restatement of \$9 billion or more in earnings.

A \$9 billion restatement, which Fannie Mae previously had said would be likely if the Securities and Exchange Commission found its accounting was flawed, would wipe out about one-third of reported profit since 2001.



Afghan disarmament: Afghan authorities load pieces of an anti-aircraft gun onto the back of a truck Monday after it was handed over by former Afghan fighters as part of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration program in Kabul, Afghanistan. Under the DDR scheme, ex-combatants, after handing their weapons over, are given the choice of working in agriculture, training for the police, de-mining, starting a small business or being reintegrated back to Afghanistan's national army now being trained by foreign troops.

Work

Chirac on Turkey/EU: French President Jacques Chirac reiterated on Monday that Turkey would have to make considerable effort to join the European Union and that French citizens will be allowed to make their voices heard in a referendum.

Chirac discussed the significance of the Friday decision by the EU to start membership negotiations with mostly Muslim Turkey in October

Bus hijacking: Two Albanian housepainters were jailed Monday to await trial on charges of hijacking a bus in Athens and holding about two dozen passengers hostage for 18 hours, authorities said.

Gaz Resuli and Leonard Murati, both 24, charged with kidnapping and attempted murder, apologized for their actions at their arraignment. They said they took the hostages and demanded a \$1.3 million ransom to start a business in Albania.

Ukraine election: Ukraine's two presidenial candidates faced off Monday in a televised debate less than a week before a rerun of their disputed election, with opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko accusing his rival of trying to steal the Nov. 21 runoff

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych responded by saying his opponent was dragging up past accusations and refusing to look forward to Ukraine's future, and he suggested that a Yushchenko victory would further divide the nation.

Rules for the 100-minute debate allowed the two candidates to ask each other questions directly. French hostages: France is receiving information about the two French journalists held hostage in Iraq on a regular basis and, despite four months' captivity, they are in good health, Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said Monday.

France grimly marked the fourth month of captivity for Christian Chesnot, a 37-year-old journalist for Radio France Internationale, and Georges Malbrunot, 41, of the daily Le Figaro, with campaigns of supnort

The men disappeared Aug. 20 along with their Syrian driver on the road to the Najaf. The driver was freed last month.

Terrorism in Indonesia: A rusty, unexploded grenade was found near the Hilton Hotel in Jakarta early Monday, police and hotel officials said, days after foreign governments warned that terrorists were planning attacks on Western targets ahead of Christmas.

A gardener found the grenade near a fence surrounding the sprawling, five-star complex in the Indonesian capital, said Emeraldo Parengkuan, Hilton's public relations director.

Gaz resistance: Israel's attorney general decided Monday not to press charges against a leader of West Bank settlers who called for resistance against government efforts to evacuate settlements, a Justice Ministry official said.

Settler leader Pinhas Wallerstein called on his followers to resist evacuation under Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to remove all 21 settlements from Gaza and four from the West Bank next year.

Photo and stories from wire services

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Correction

A story in Saturday's paper about the 37th Airlift Squadron's return from Iraq contained an error. All of the squadron's C-130 Hercules aircraft have not yet returned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Comics, horoscopes and advice – every day in Stars and Stripes







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NCUA

Last-minute holiday mail keeping post offices busy

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busu for the

last three to

four weeks. 77

officer-in-charge of postal

operations for the 835th

Squadron at Ramstein Air

Air Force 2nd Lt.

Jesus Raimundi

Communications

Base, Germany

BY SANDRA JONTZ Stars and Stripes

NAPLES. Italy - Well, better late than

That's how Petty Officer 1st Class William Sharon felt about the packages of Christmas gifts he mailed off Monday to parents and in-laws, a mere six days before the big day But he didn't mind that the gifts won't arrive

in time to be opened Christmas morning

"Usually, we don't send 'em anything, so I guess it's better late than never," he said, chuckling while standing in line Monday at the cramped, one-room post office at Naval Support Activity, Na-

Miles away in Iraq, Marine Maj. Stephen Newsome avoided the whole last-minute rush for several reasons, some not so

Christmas gift exchanging was "officially waved off" thi year for Newsome, in Iraq all of four days. "Too busy at the Newsome house anyway. My sister is getting induced this morning to have a son and my dad is having bypass surgery next Mon-day. Not exactly the Christmas

we all envisioned."

"I will, however, buy and mail some cards today," Newsome said in an e-mail from the Green Zone in Baghdad, where he is deployed to the Multinational Security Transition Command Iraq, Civilian Police Assistance Training

"From what I see around here, ... [mail flow] seems to be coming just fine. We are absolutely surrounded in care packages, and most everyone seems to just lump it all in a pile for community use," Newsome wrote.

The mailroom at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Irag, expanded operating hours about three weeks ago to "accommodate the large number of packages expected to be both incoming and outgoing during the holiday season," said Capt. Bill Coppernoll, spokesman for the Task Force Danger/1st Infantry Divi-

"Many of our soldiers are taking advantage of this time to send Christmas packages back to friends and loved ones [and] ... soldiers are taking advantage of the additional mailroom

Postal clerks expect to work 12 hours a day or more this time of year, even if it's the week before Christmas and the recommended shipping

dates have come and gone "It's nonstop. Just nonstop," said Postal Clerk Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric Watson, 27, stationed at Naples.

"It's been amazingly busy for the last three to four weeks," said Air Force 2nd Lt. Jesus Raimundi, 24, officer-in-charge of postal operations for the 835th Communications Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Ger-

Handlers at Frankfurt, the central processing center for all U.S. mail coming in and out of Europe, process about 110 tons a day this time of year, up from the 50 tons to 55 tons otherwise processed, Raimundi said.

To handle the surge in mail and related services such as stamp sales and money orders, the 835th augments its usual staff of 77 military members and 21 civilian workers with 35 "seasonal overhires" from Nov. 15 to Jan. 15.

The additional workers help cover the influx in customers, mail volume and lets the post offices run operations 24 hours a day, with the night-shift processing incoming mail. Nevertheless, the unit is already 10 airmen short, based on a 2001 manning study based on half the current mail volume, he said

"Since October, these kids have been work-ing 12-hour shifts, five days a week, and they haven't batted an eye. They are the most moti vated troops I've ever seen," Raimundi said. E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil



Petty Officer 1st Class William Sharon, 33, who works at the "ciao hall" at Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy, waited until six days before Christmas to send off ulky boxes of presents to his parents and in-laws. That's better than years past. he said, when the Sharons didn't often mail any gifts.

DODDS reschedules spring break for 1st ID schools

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany - School officials have handed 1st Infantry Division troops returning from Iraq a Christmas gift that some parents don't want: They've moved up their children's spring break one month so the weeklong holiday falls during the time most of the returning troops will be on block leave

Late last week, the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe an-nounced that schools in Ansbach, Bamberg, Grafenwöhr, Kitzingen, Schweinfurt Vilseck and Würzburg will hold spring re-Schweinfurt, cess from March 14-18. All other schools will take the holiday as scheduled, from

"This was in the best interests of military families," said Mary Ellen Riley, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for DODDS' Bavaria District.

About 11,000 1st ID troops from northern Bavaria left in February for a difficult yearlong deployment in north central Iraq, and most are expected to return to Germany between late January and early March.

Upon returning, each soldier will work seven half-days of "reintegration training," then receive 30 days of block leave. If the troops return home as scheduled, the origi-nal school holiday would fall outside the troops' vacation time.

Officials reworked schedule to coincide with returning troops' block leave.

"When my husband comes back, if the kids are still in school we don't want to take them out," said Vanny Cao, the mother of Würzburg American Elementary School children "It's a good decision," said Staff Sgt, Tiffa

ny Lewis of the Kitzingen-based 4th Battal-ion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, a mother of two elementary-school age daughters who is home on leave from Iraq. "Once we return, they'll be out of school. That's more time I'll get to spend with my family.

But the decision prompted fierce debate within DODDS before it was announced last week. For teachers and many families, the school calendar is a set-in-stone fixture around which they schedule their lives. Some have set vacations or purchased nonrefundable airline tickets.

"The school calendar is the gold standard, what we go by. This sets a terrible precedent for all future deployments," said Wendy Starnes of Würzburg, a parent-teacher asso-ciation member. "The community should have been polled."

Last Wednesday, Ronald McIntire, the Bavaria district superintendent, sent a memo to faculty and administrators saying that the spring-break change — under consideration since September — had been rejected. "I thought for sure it wasn't going to go,

said Pinky Hall, a Schweinfurt teacher whose husband is deployed to Iraq

But after a strong reaction from Army eaders at 1st ID and U.S. Army Europe DODDS-Europe Superintendent Joseph Taf-oya reversed the decision the following day. The leaders persuaded him that the extreme hardship of the Iraq tour on 1st ID families outweighed the inconvenience to the school

Mike Thompson, assistant superintendent in the Rayaria District, said the rescheduled break may force schools to reschedule some sports events, and part of a three-week period of standardized testing also must be changed. The district may add a holiday as well, to break up the long stretch between spring break and Memorial Day. School officials also have been told to give plenty of latitude to teachers and families who have made plans for April.

"We had a little hesitation about it at first," said Harvey Gerry, DODDS-Europe's chief of staff. "Given the really extreme nature of what went on, we said 'OK, let's go ahead and make the change." "

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

School cuts cost of MBA program

BY BEN MURRAY Stars and Strings

Troy University's Heidelberg, Ger-

many, campus is offering a new schol-arship program to entice American students to enroll in its master's de-gree program in general manage-

The university is lowering the cost of its master's of business administration courses from \$25,884 to \$19,500.
Its executive MBA program has gone from \$27,875 to \$21,000, said Petra Metzger, the school's office manager.

The special deal, called the Patriotic Scholarship, applies only to Ameri-can servicemembers, their family members and Department of Defense civilians, contractors and retirees, Metzger said.

The reduced tuition includes the cost of books for the 16-month course, which is a combination lecture/distance learning curriculum, including two weekends of instruction in English per month by a Troy University professor flown in from the U.S. cam pus, Metzger said.

Anyone interested can get more information at the new school's Web site, http://www.troyuniversity.de.

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.estripesosd.mil



SICA INIGO/Stars and Stripes

Army Chaplain (Maj.) Sid Young, who is with the Nevada National Guard and deployed to Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, greets troops coming back from a rest and recuperation trip to the States. Before he stopped counting in November, Young had greeted more than 250,000 troops and civilians at the base. Young is looking into getting a permanent position within the U.S. Army Europe so he can do he loves.

'Happy Chappy' helps soothe worries

Chaplain with R&R crew tends to warriors bogged down with stress

BY JESSICA INIGO Stars and Stripes

RHEIN-MAIN AIR BASE, Germany — Sometimes all a combat-jaded troop needs is a warm smile and a hearty handshake to feel human again.

Army Chaplain (Maj.) Sid Young, with his welcoming grin and perceptive gaze, makes it his job to tend to war fighters who are bogged down with emotional stress.

Young acts as the heart and soul of transient troops going through Rhein-Main Air Base, catching the emotion in their eyes and lending an ear when it counts.

He hears every affliction, from pain left after the death of a battle buddy to difficulties of family separation, but sometimes it's what he doesn't say that makes the biggest impression on traveling troops.

"He's just what troops need to get back in the swing of things — get that mind-set. I think he provides confidence in people and motivates them just by being there. He's the best chaplain I've seen. He amazed me," said Sgt. Paul Stokes, a military policeman with Company G, 759th MP Battalion, who was traveling back Wednesday morning from rest and recuperation leave to Camp Provider, Iraq.

Stokes and the rest of the MP battalion heading back to the desert first met Young when they came into Rhein-Main to begin their leave

Young, who has picked up nicknames such as "Smiley" and "Happy Chappy," briefed the troops with his team of all-Army R&R specialists, providing counseling, medical, mental health and spiritual services.

The chaplain, who was activated with the Nevada National Guard over two years ago, has spoken to just about every troop or civilian who flew through Rhein-Main for R&i, nitial deployment and homecoming flights since he deployed to the air base in May 2003. When he last counted, which was in Novem-

ber, he had greeted 250,000 troops, which he thinks is "absolutely amazing."

"I'm in a very unique position," said Young, who is a Protestant chaplain with the Mormon Whe's just what troops need to get back in the swing of things — get that mind-set. I think he provides confidence in people and motivates them just by being there.

Sgt. Paul Stokes Company G, 759th MP Battalion military policeman

church. "It's the most marvelous position to be in. I'm able to share that light, actually touch soldiers — and by my opinion, that's God's light. They feel it and feel the difference. They can put on their game face and know they can go back and finish their job, what they started."

Young worked as a psychiatric counselor in his own private practice at home in Utah and as a teacher at the Southern Utah University church education system before being activated. He said he could tell the difference between a troop's game face and actual pain. That is when he steps in and takes steps toward making the troops healthy in heart and

Young spearheads the 64th Replacement Company's R&R team, based at Rhein-Main. Master Sgt. Darrell Jackson, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the R&R program, and Staff Sgts. Randolph Lieberman and Matthew Legg. two U.S. Army in Europe Reserve mental health and medical specialists, send the troops off emotionally prepared.

The team works almost anytime of the day or night, meeting, greeting, helping and handling troops. The hours vary with flights, but usually the R&R crew counts on working between midnight to 6 am. and then again from 9:30 am. until sometime in the early afternoon when its mission ends.

Once troops are in the terminal, the R&R crew tries to get as much one-on-one interaction as it can. Sometimes the chaplain is stopped and asked to do a quick prayer, other times the R&R group spots someone in need of guidance, but team members always make themselves available any time of the day or niebt.

"I love the mission," Young said. "We don't get a lot of sleep and there are a lot of lonely nights in the terminal, but it's all worth it. Sometimes I'll have four or five soldiers waiting in line down the hallway to talk to me, while other times I just talk to troops in passing for five or 10 minutes. Each flight is different and we always have to be prenared."

ent and we always have to be prepared."

Many times before the flights take off back to the desert, Young climbs aboard and sends the troops off with a final prayer and blessing.

Now, Young is looking forward to being there for troops as they come in over the holidays, though he will be missing his own family Christmas in Utah for the second year in a

In fact, this year the whole family — his wife, Kris, their six children, four grandchildren and the three more on the way — will be at his home in Cedar City, Utah.

Still, he knows he's doing the right thing.
"I would just have to reiterate how important it is to make sure each and every soldier is taken care of and that I'm there for them for whatever they might need." he said.

Young, who has been asked to extend again as the R&R chaplain, is looking into getting a permanent position within the U.S. Army Europe so he can do what he loves while having his family in Germany with him.

The troons burdened with war worries said

The troops burdened with war worries said they wouldn't have it any other way.

"I think it's wonderful having the chaplain here" said Capt. April Lynn Gasparri, who was enroute to Shindand, Afghanistan, with the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. "Some people don't seek the church, but sometimes they need guidance. They have it available to them right when they step off the plane here and from someone whos so stincere, honest and believes in God. It's great."

inigoj@mail.estripes.osd.n

Gulf War cancer risk

WASHINGTON — Veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf War exposed to pollution from oil well fires, exhausts and other sources face an increased risk of lung cancer, a government advisory group reported Monday.

A committee of the Institute of Medicine concluded there isn't enough evidence to determine whether most of veterans' health problems are associated with such exposures.

But it said occupational and environmental exposure to combustion products has been shown to increase danger of lung cancer.

"Studies of people exposed to to air pollution, vehicle exhaust and burning of coal and other heating and cooking fuels consistently show that such exposures are linked to increased risk for developing lung cancer," committee chair Lynn Goldman said in a statement. "This provides sufficient evi-

dence that exposure to combustion products during the Gulf War could be associated with lung cancer for some veterans," said Goldman, a professor at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

However, Goldman added, "it should be emphasized that smoking is the major culprit for lung cancer, accounting for 80 percent of all cases, according to the American Cancer Society."

The committee said evidence is too weak to connect other cancers to exposure to combustion products. But it said there are indications that such exposure may be linked to asthma, cancers of the nose, mouth and throat, bladder and to low birth weight and premature births among women exposed while pregnant.

Defense budget

WASHINGTON — The White House is pressing Pentagon officials to cut tens of billions of dollars from their proposed budgets over the next several years, signaling that the Bush administration's massive defense buildup during the years following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks is coming to an end.

The White House move to rein in Pentagon spending — described by defense officials and outside experts monitoring the negotiations — comes as the nation faces rising budget deficits and growing costs for the Iraq war, currently about \$4.4 billion a

The Pentagon budget cuts will not affect spending on the war in Iraq and operations in Afghanistan, which are paid through separate emergency allocations. The Pentagon is currently preparing a supplemental war budget for 2005 that officials said could total \$80 billion, up from \$66 billion the previous year.

If the Pentagon's emergency supplemental budget for 2005 is approved, Congress could end up authorizing nearly \$500 billion for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year. Yet, only weeks before Presi-

Yet, only weeks before President Bush submits his 2006 budget to Congress, the military services are scrambling to find areas that can be cut.

The Air Force and Navy could be especially hard hit, with each branch possibly losing \$4 billion to \$5 billion in 2006, officials said. The Navy also controls the budget of the Marine Corps.

From wire services

50 suspects detained in Najaf car bombing

BAGHDAD - Thousands of mourners attended funerals Monday and Iraqi authorities detained 50 suspects in connection with an explosion in the Shiite holy city of Najaf that killed 67 people and wounded 142

Iraq's interim prime minister warned that the rebels were trying to foment a sectarian war in the country

Najaf police chief Ghalib al-Jazaari said that 50 people were arrested Monday in connection with the bombings. They included "elements" who had confessed to having links with the intelligence services of neighboring Syria and Iran, he claimed

Authorities in Najaf banned cars from entering the downtown area that houses the Imam Ali shrine to prevent future bombings, Gov. Adnan al-Zurufi said Monday.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said the mainly Sunni Muslim insurgency, blamed for the deadly strikes Sunday against Iraq's majority Shiites, want to "create ethnic and religious tensions, problems and conflicts ... to destroy the unity of this country.'

"These attacks are designed to stop the political process from taking place in Iraq," Allawi told reporters. He added that he expected more such strikes as key Jan. 30 parliamentary elections — the first free vote in Iraq since the overthrow of the monarchy in 1958 — get closer.

Illustrating continuing tensions in the region, a bomb exploded at a police checkpoint in Karbala on Monday, causing damage to surrounding buildings but inflicting no casualties. Police said they cordoned off the area and arrested the attacker.

Shiites, who make up around 60 percent of Iraq's population, have been strong sup porters of the upcoming electoral process, which they expect will reverse the longtime domination of Iraq by the Sunni mi-



Onlookers gaze at destroyed buildings in Najaf, Iraq, on Monday, a day after a car bomb blast killed 67 people and wounded 142.

nority, the country's other main religious sect. The insurgency is believed to have been fomented by Sunnis, who made up the majority of Saddam Hussein's former Baath Party leadership.

Shiite officials and clerics blamed the Najaf and Karbala bombings - the worst carnage in Iraq since July — on Sunni insurgents wanting to ignite a sectarian war. The strikes appeared designed to cause massive casualties and eventual reprisals by the Shiites against Sunnis.

"We always have said that we are going to fight and defeat terrorism," Allawi said. We are going to win definitely and the political process would continue in Iraq. Najaf's police chief said that among the

50 people detained were those with links to Syria and Iran

'The police arrested some elements who confessed that they have links with the Syrian intelligence ... and a person who confessed he had links with Iranian intelligence since 1995," al-Jazaari said.

The deadly strikes on Sunday - against a funeral procession in Naiaf and at a packed bus station in Karbala - once again highlighted the capability of the guerrillas to inflict massive casualties

They also have undermined confidence in repeated claims by U.S. military commanders that their successful campaign last month to retake the town of Fallujah had dealt a serious blow to the rebellion.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan strongly condemned Sunday's

U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Sunday, at least 1,304 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1.021 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 11:30 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 75 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slova-kia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat opera-tions in Iraq had ended, 1,166 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 912 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the mili-

No new deaths reported. The latest identifications reported by

the military: ■ No new identifications reported.

violence and called on Iragis "to come together in a spirit of national reconcilia-tion," U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said. Associated Press Writers Dusan Stojanovic in Baghdad, Gassid Jabbar in Karbala and Abdul Hussein al-Obeidi in Najaf contributed to thi

Confusion, criticism mark start of hearings for Hussein's aides By Mariam Fam Minister Gen. Sultan Hashim

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Human rights advocates and lawyers say Iraq's hush-hush legal proceedings against Saddam Hussein's ousted regime and the secrecy leading up to the investigative hearings that began late last week threaten to undermine the legitimacy of the trial process.

First, they complain, interim

Prime Minister Ayad Allawi surprised many by announcing the trials of several of Saddam's former regime members would begin sooner than had been expected, although no date was ever

Then, a judge made similarly unexpected news - announcing without notice Saturday that two high-profile defendants had already been interrogated. Ali Hassan al-Majid, better known as Chemical Ali for his role in poison gas attacks against the Kurdish minority and former Defense

Ahmad appeared on that day at a preliminary hearing by investigave Judge Raad al-Juhvi

"There is no transparency and everything is mysterious," complained Badee Izzat Aref lawyer

of former deputy prime minister Tariq Aziz, one of Saddam's top lieutenants who has been jailed

"They (the judges) are under pressure from the executive au-thority because of the elections."

Al-Juhyi provided few details about the investigative hearings, but said defense lawyers were present with their two clients. The exact date of the hearings wasn't previously announced and no press was invited. Footage of the proceedings was later released.Judges and officials have the criminal trials or released any information on whether Saddam's aides will be tried individually or jointly.

The process has been criticized by foreign trial monitors.

"If the whole judicial process is going to have credibility and legitimacy, the government needs to be much more forthcoming with information about the rights that the accused are being given," Richard Dicker, director of the International Justice Program at the New York-based Human Rights Watch, said before Saturday's hearings.

It wasn't even clear what kind of access defense lawyers had been given to their clients, he noted.

Allawi's brief announcement Tuesday that the judicial proceedings would start in a matter of days left many questions unanswered, including whether Saddam himself was going to be among those to appear in court.

"So far, we know nothing about the trials. No one knows how they took the decision or who took the decision," to start the process now, said Mahmoud Othman, a prominent Kurdish politician.

"Suddenly they break the news and provide no explanation. People won't take it seriously."



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Under Iraqi law the investiga-

tive hearings are the first step to-ward a trial. But the timing of the court appearances - just ahead of Jan. 30 general elections - has prompted accusations the legal procedings were being expedited to boost Allawi's political stand-

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Pilots fly into action when troops need help

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM The Washington Post

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar — A giant video screen, hung inside a warehouse here that has been transformed by the U.S. Air Force into a state-of-the-art operations center, provides a window on the military action that still occupies the skies over Iran

One day earlier this month, the radar signatures of a half-dozen U.S. fighter jets could be seen over Mosul, Fallujah and Babil province south of Baghdad, their locations reflecting the best guesses of military commanders about where trouble might flare.

The morning and early afternoon passed without incident, but the quiet was suddenly broken at 3:14 p.m., when soldiers in Mosul reported taking small arms fire.

Nothing gets higher priority for military planes involved in the Iraq mission that roops under attack. Within seconds of the heat roops in Contact. Popped to up in the video map. The Navy fighter jets that had been over Mosal swooped low in a show of force, and the attackers faded away, for stalling more aggressive measures by the stalling more aggressive measures by the

Such action and reaction have become the norm for the air war, a part of the conflict in Iraq that is largely overshadowed by the grittier, often bloodier efforts of forces on the ground to battle an elusive and determined insurgency.

In contrast to the opening days of the invasion of Iraq 21 months ago, when U.S. warplanes struck a series of planned targets in a display that some in the Pentagon dubbed "shock and awe," the air campaign has become more ad hoc and less show.

Pilots now take their cues for missions not from Air Proce strategists but from Army and Marine commanders who daily submit requests for where they think air-craft can help most in support of ground operations. Instead of taking to the air with calear idea of what they will strike and when, pilots now largely wait for something to happen — an attack on US. forces, for instance, or the discovery of militants ensconced somewhere — and then fly into

With the exception of large offensive ground operations, such as last month's assault on Fallujah, days can pass without a bomb being dropped. This has led to using U.S. combat aircraft in nontraditional

Fighters, for instance, now often are employed as surveillance and reconnaissance platforms. Using video and infrared cameras on their airframes, they cruise oil pipe-lines and power plants, scouting for evidence of attack damage or suspicious activity.

When an opportunity for an airstrike presents itself, the weapon of choice may be nontraditional, particularly if the desire is for a relatively small missile and a quick attack. Predator drones are a case in point. Built originally as spying platforms to linger high above targets, they're being used occasionally as shooters in Iraq, firing Hellfire missiles.

More than 500 U.S. and other coalition aircraft remain on duty in Central Command's area of responsibility, which covers Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. More than a fourth of these are jet fighters: Air Force F-15s, F-16s and A-10s; Navy F-14s and F/A-18s; Marine AV-8s and F/A-18s; and British GR-8s and GR-7s

At night, these strike aircraft are joined by slower-moving but particularly lethal AC-130 gunships. Operated by Special Operations forces, these propeller-driven planes can pour withering fire from any of three weapons that poke from their left side: a 25mm Gatling gun, a 40mm cannon or a 105mm howitzer.

An additional 55 or so aircraft are for gathering intelligence.

These include a Global Hawk drone and a small fleet of Predators, as well as high-flying U-2s, signals-scanning RC-135s and ground-spying E-8Cs. Rounding out the air forces are dozens of service planes, including KC-135 fuel tankers and C-130 transport aircraft.

At any given time, the skies over Iraq contain, in the words of one senior officer here, "a cocktail of weapons" — from 2,000-pound bombs to 100-pound Hellfire missiles — waiting to be let loose should the need arise. The biggest recent advance came in September, officers said, with the debut of a satellite-guided, 500-pound bomb designated the GBU-300-pound bomb designated the

The new munition, smaller than older 1,000-pound and 2,000-pound models, can still do serious damage to a building but with less risk of collateral harm to neighboring structures, officers said. Guided by Global Positioning System satellites, the bomb also can operate through cloud cover, unlike a laser-directed version, the GBU-12.

Nonprofit builds, renovates homes for disabled soldiers

The Associated Press

MIDDLEBORO, Mass. — A nonprofit organization has emerged to ease the return of disabled U.S. soldiers from Iraq by constructing houses adapted to their special needs.

Former National Guard Sgt. Peter Damon, who lost his arms in an accident when he was working on a military helicopter, is grateful he will be the first to own such a home built by the group Homes For Our Troops.

"I can imagine what it will look like," Damon said as he addressed about 100 people at a groundbreaking ceremony Sunday in Middleboro, about 35 miles south of Boston. "It will be awesome."

Homes For Our Troops is the brainchild of Wareham's John Gonsalves, a construction supervisor with 20 years' experience.

The Plymouth-based organization founded in February has raised \$450,000 in donations, including some from Japan, Canada, France, England and New Zealand, Gonsalves said. Homes For Our Troops is working with four disabled servicemembers, including one in California who wants to adapt his existing home.

"We can do this for a lot of families as long as people support us," Gonsalves said.

Damon's home is expected to be ready sometime in March. The 32-year-old will live there with his wife, Jennifer, 28; and two children, Allura, 7, and Daniel, 2.

To help accommodate Damon's special needs, the three-bedroom, 2,000-square-foot ranch-style home will feature keyless entry, lower cabinets, bigger switches and wider hallways, The Standard-Times of New Bedford re-

Gonsalves said the hope is that the Damons' mortgage on "their little piece of the American dream" will be completely paid

The groundbreaking came one day shy of the couple's first anni-

versary and featured a flye a Black Hawk helicopter.

"The generosity of Americans has made this happen," Damon

Damon was an electrician before he lost his arms changing a tire on a Black Hawk helicopter while assigned to the 126th Aviation Battalion.

He said the house will give his family the stability and security of knowing they have a roof over their heads as he learns a new profession. He said he has always worked with his hands, and now must learn to work with his mind.

Damon lost his left arm below the elbow and his right arm above the elbow. He has a prosthesis on his left hand. He recuperated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., until his discharge earlier this year

He is unsure of his future plans, but said he and his wife want to go to college at some

"I never imagined the support when I got back," he said.

No torch of freedom here



JOE GIORDONO/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers approach Saddam Hussein's famed Hands of Victory monuent in Bagdad. The monument has two sets of crossed swords marking the entrance and exit to a massive military parade ground. The arches were built to celebrate "victory" over Iran. According to Globalsecurity.org, the metal used to make the swords came from melted down Iraqi weapons from the Iran-Iraq wav . Helmest thrown at the base of each sword are Iranian, collected on battlefields; and the hands are replicas of Hussein's.

Guardsman graduates via satellite

ST. LOUIS — Spc. Keith Lucas is a National Guardsman on duty in Iraq, where his job is clearing bombs from roads, but that didn't stop him from taking part in his college graduation.

Lucas, 26, participated Saturday in the commencement ceremony at the University of Missouri-St. Louis with the help of a satellite hookup.

Lucas, whose degree is in mass communications, was given a minute-long ovation. His parents, fiance and other relatives were invited to the stage.

Lucas, also a trauma specialist for the Missouri Guard's Company A, 1140th Engineer Battalion earned a 3.8 grade-point average. He finished his final course, Business Writing, over the Internet.

Lucas' family accepted the diploma on his behalf.

Two GIs killed in Kuwait accident

KUWAIT CITY — Two U.S. soldiers were killed and two injured in a traffic accident outside Kuwait

City on Sunday, the U.S. military said in a statement. The statement said the "hit-and-run" accident happened in the morning, and the injured soldiers were admitted to a civilian hospital. A Kuwaiti security official said the driver of the vehicle that hit the soldiers later surrendered to police.

The names of the soldiers were withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement said.

The U.S. military and Kuwaiti authorities were in-

On Wednesday, the U.S. Embassy warned Americans here about the possibility of terrorist attacks.

News from the North Pole

SANTA INDICATES THAT THE FOLLOWING BOYS AND GIRLS HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD THIS YEAR AND WILL SOON BE RECEIVING A PERSONALIZED NOTE FROM SANTA!

Due to an overwhelming response, I have asked Stars and Stripes to print additional pages to list the names of all the children who wrote to me this year. Please check "News from the North Pole" in your Stars and Stripes on 20, 21, and 22 December. I'll see you very soon! ~Santa



John Abbott Austin Ackley Billie Adams Sapphira Akins Derick Alequin Brandon Alligood Nicholas Angval Julian Aoki Tasha Archibald Heather Arndt Nicole Arnett Christian Banks Shawn Banks Elaine Baptist Zachary Barnhart Bryce Basso Mikala Basso Jacob Battle Alex Beck Gavin Beckel Garrett Becker Brandice Beckwith Sterling Beckwith Chris Beish Gabrielle Beish Amiere Bell Kiera Bennett Samantha Bidinger Kieran Bloomer Connor Bloomer Camille Boodoosingh Evan Borzotra Fox Borzotra Malachi Bowden Sierra Bowver Karee Bovens Chevenne Breslev Shelby Britt Aileen Brokamp Gavin Brokos Nolan Brokos Heather Brown Liam Brown Russell Brown Ashlee Bullock Alexander Burch Olivia Burch Tyriq Burnett Dalisa Caldwell Shae Calvin Jesse Camacho Tatiana Carter Jeremy Carter Crystal Castille Courtney Chapman Kaitlyn Chasteen Kava Choate Scout Churchwell Kristten Clady

Shantelle Clark Adrean Clarke Mick Clarke Dick Clarke Karla Clarke Maggie Clearwater Seth Cordle Shawnee Crabb Holle Craven Kendel Crumley Zonnia Cruz Philip D'Ambrosio Danielle Davis Kaitlynn Decker Courtney Disman Brianna Dukes Damien Dunlap Shane Eaton Jenna Eidem Mezzan El Sayed Louis Epperson DeMarcus Evans Cameron Falk Chevann Falk Kodev Falk Kaleb Falk Kaitlynn Farrar Daniel Fassnacht Brock Ferraro Suzanne Ferraro Emily Fitzpatrick Katherine Flanigan Annabella Floro Joey Flynn Maggie Flynn Sammy Flynn Maliyah Ford Daphne Fowler Bobbie Gagnon Nicholas Galles Jarith Gambrazzio NaTorrie Ganaway Allison Garry Micki Gonzales Gabi Gonzales Izzabel Graham Gunnar Gransbery Elizabeth Gray Chelsea Grenier Breanna Grim Zachary Grim Nick Groen David Guilder Tatiana Gutka Teagan Gutka Jayson Haiss

Victoria Hall

Erik Hall

Eric Clark

Rylee Hammar Anna Hampshire **Emily Hampshire** Candice Harmon Shelby Hasting Alec Houadahl Max Huni Bridget Huni Douglas Huni Melea Huon-Dumentat Alaxira Huon-**Dumentat** Zachary Hynes Samantha Hynes Julia lovine Jennifer Irizarry Jonathan Irizarry Micaella Jacildo Bret Jacobi Joe Jamison Sean Jamison TJ Johnson Blaine Johnson Daiah Johnson Alvesa Jones Colby Juliana Sophie Kane Aaron Kauhn Arielle Keller Kyle Kempke Loni Kempke Miraj Killingsworth Xavier Kinchen Michael Kinsey Timothy Kubista Charles Kuhn Johanna Kuhn Stephen Lane Joshua Lane Jason Lankford Stephanie Larsen Terrell Lawrence Makkai Legette Matava Legette Marc Lehman Ethan Leibl Destiny Madden Raymond Maldonado JoAnna Malko Joshua Malong, Jr. Maelin Manalo Isaiah Margis Iris Martinez Jeffrey Matthews

Austin Mawn

Jennifer Maxwell

Connor Mayfield

Autumn McAllister

Gabby McConnell Justin McConnell Rose McGroarty Dylan McLaughlin Jake Meier Jurien Melonia Lindsey Meyer Ryan Meyer Aaron Miller Jessica Miller Billy Miller Honesty Mills Tiffany Min Justus Mittag Ryan Mittag Tiana Mixon Ravvean Moment Kaitlyn Muether Sean Myers Mackenzie Neal Yasmane Newton Tia Nichols Alexis Novotny Brandon Odell Sean Orcutt Faith Owens Grace Owens Arianna Padilla Nico Padilla Elizabeth Paez Kelsey Penny Emily Peters Elijah Pleasants Gwendolynn Porter Sebastian Porter Steven Potter Danien Pratt Brandie Price Daniel Price Martin Pringle Alexa Prunty Christopher Prunty Francesca Pulisci Will Quinton Zach Rady Rvan Ramos Cole Ramos Katlyn Reigel Shadda Resendez Jeffrey Rhodes Courtney Richardson Manuel Rivera Maeve Roach Austin Roberts Cheyenne Roberts Taylor Robinson Caine Robinson Marleney Rodriguez Katlyn Rosas

John Rozelle Jacob Rozelle Madison Rudy Dominick Ryans Ryan Saavedra Rachel Sampson Tabitha Santos Eric Schalch Nathan Schreffler Veronica Seguin Dominik Sestan Seth Sharritt Savannah Shaw Macie Shimon Victoria Sloan Ariel Smith Gregory Smith Claire Standaert Richard Standaert I'yanna Starr Terence Stephens Dennis Stevens Tiffany Still Kayla Strauther Aaron Strickland Lesley Sullivan Jacob Sutterfield Kaitlyn Talley Austin Tally Kendra Taylor Haley Thompson Carly Thompson Caylee Tijerina Oscar Torres Lena Trageser Cathleen Trevino Damon Turcotte Zachary Tutko Kenyon Twing Jacie Unpingco Keana Utsey Hakeem Valcin Damien J. Vasquez Alex Vibber Jason Wareham Xavier Warren Kwaniquea Washington Joshua Watson Marlin Watson Michelle Weber A'nae Weldon Sarah Wellman Ella Wellman Summer Werner Skyler Werner Amani Westry Chloe White Lorenzo Williams

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In Iraq, processing claims a work in progress

By Joseph Giordono Stars and Stripes

RADWANIYAH, Iraq — In a pair of cramped concrete buildings straddling the walls of Camp Victory, the U.S. military is trying to make things right.

Each Saturday, a handful of soldiers staff a regional government office, paying out claims for damage mistakenly done to Iraqi lives and property.

On an average weekend, the Government Information Center in Radwaniyah collects about 30 claims. U.S. military lawyers approve about half of those, with payouts ranging from a few hundred dollars to upward of \$15,000.

The process can take weeks or months and claims filed when one U.S. unit was operating in a certain area are sometimes passed on to the next to arrive. The process is repeated at a dozen other centers across Irao

"I cannot make any promises as to whether your claim will be approved, but I will guarantee you that all of the facts get to the judge," Staff Sgt, Jared Robinson, of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, tells one man, whose claim for damaged property had been pending for months.

Robinson, 25, of Jennings, La., is literally the bag man. If a claim is approved, identities are confirmed and the paperwork is in order, Robinson reaches into a desert camouflage Army rucksack, then counts out the appropriate amount in crisp greenbacks.

"They always want new bills: in large denominations," he joked during a break from the process. Robinson, a Guardsman



V IOSERIA GIORDONO/Stare and Strings

Staff Sgt. Darryl Carter looks on as Staff Sgt. Jared Robinson of the 256th Brigade Combat Team hands cash over to an Iraqi citizen for damage caused to his property by the U.S. military.

like the rest of the 256th, was finishing his second year of law school when the brigade was called to active duty.

Inside, Spc. Monty Johnson, 21, of Carencro, La., processes the claims.

He has each recipient read and sign paperwork releasing the military from any future claims. Johnson was a nursing student at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette before the call-up. Most times, the short meetings end with a handshake and profuse thanks. But the process is not without its contradictions.

In one case, a 256th Brigade tank ran over an Iraqi man and his taxi.

over an Iraqi man and his taxi.

The man lost his leg and his livelihood.
The military approved his claim, awarding him \$10,000.

In another case, U.S. soldiers mistakenly killed three male members of an Iraqi fami-

ly near Fallujah. The military awarded that family \$9,700.

"At first, many local people didn't trust it," said the Iraqi translator running the center who identified himself only as Salladin

"They think it's a center to collect information from people. But after the first compensation was paid, they see."

For the soldiers, the claims process is a work in progress.

"Some of the people are still a little skeptical," said Staff Sgt. Darryl Carter, of Plain Dealing, La. "When their claims are denied, they're disappointed, but I've never seen anyone really upset.

"The quicker we get the claim processed and adjudicated, we're better off." As Saturday's claims session drew to a

As Saturday's claims session drew to a close, around 10 claims had been paid. But Carter announced he had one more.

"This is the surprise I had for you," he told Salladin.

Carter handed over a file containing a case that had languished since June. A young girl was hit in the face with builter fragments, damaging both her eyes. She was taken to a U.S. military hospital in Germany, but doctors couldn't do much for her. She lost one eye, and is blind in the other.

Her father had tried to balance his work and caring for her, but couldn't afford the medication to keep down inflammation in the remaining eye. Carter had resubmitted the claim, which was originally denied. The father received \$3,000.

"Until now, if you asked me, I would not believe it." Salladin said. "But here it is." E-mail Joseph Giordono at: Giordono@pstripes.osd.mil

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IN THE STATES

Bush criticizes Iraqi troops, defends Rumsfeld

BY JENNIFER LOVEN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush pointedly acknowledged Monday that U.S.-trained Iraqi troops are not ready to take over their country's security, and cautioned that next month's elections there are only the beginning of a

long process toward democracy. "I certainly don't ex-

"I certainly don't expect the process to be troublefree," Bush said at a year-end news conference in

Bush which he signaled tough spending cuts to come and declined to offer specific solutions

to Social Security's solvency. Bush also gave a fresh vote of confidence to embattled Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. "He's doing a very fine job," the

president said.

The 55-minute session, the 17th solo news conference of his presidency, was part of Bush's effort seize the momentum from his re-election victory and push several ambitious domestic and foreign policy priorities in his second term.

On Iraq, where a bloody insurgency continues unabated, Bush urged the American people to remain patient well beyond the Jan. 30 elections to give Iraqis time to craft a constitution and strengthen their security forces. "The elections in January are

The elections in January are the beginning of a process and it is important for the American people to understand that," he said.

Critics have raised questions about whether enough U.S. troops are in Iraq to bring security for the elections.

"No question about it. The bombers are having an effect" on Americans' belief in success in Iraq, Bush said, while adding that his own confidence remains unshaken

Bush said "I would call the results mixed" on a U.S. effort to put Iraqi security in the hands of its own people. He said U.S. officials in charge of the effort will "spend a lot of time and effort" on fixing the problem by improving the Iraqi command structure.

Essential to the American strategy for withdrawing its troops from Iraq is the effort to train Iraqi forces for security and combat. But doubts have been raised from several quarters about the effectiveness of the effort and the reliability of Iraqi security forces.

On domestic issues, Bush said he will submit a federal budget that will cut the deficit in half in five years in part by asking for strict spending discipline. His fiscal 2006 budget is due to Congress in February.

"We will submit a budget that fits the times. It will provide every tool and resource to the military, will protect the homeland, and meet other priorities of the government," he said.

As for Rumsfeld, a growing number of lawmakers, including Republicans, have voiced no confidence in the defense secretary. But Bush defended his Penta-

gon chief.

"Beneath that rough and gruff

no-nonsense demeanor is a good human being who cares deeply about the military and the grief that war causes," Bush said, batting away criticism that Rumsfeld had not personally signed condolence letters to the families of troops who have died.

f troops who have died.

Bush defended his close but

"complex" ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, with whom he has had disagreements over the war on terror and, more recently, over the disputed elections in Ukraine. U.S. and Russian officials said Monday that Bush and Putin would meet in Slovakia on Feb. 24 as part of an ef-

fort to improve U.S. relations with European nations.

Bush didn't tip his hand about who might be nominated to be the new national intelligence director— a post created by the largest overhaul of U.S. intellience-gathering in a half-century that Bush signed into law last week.



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Jackson's lawyers seek delay in molestation case

BY PAUL CHAVEZ

The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Cali. — Michael Jackson's lawyers went to court Monday to seek a six-week delay in his child molestation trial, saying they need the extra time to sort through 14,000 pages of evidence filed by prosecutors over the past two months.

Prosecutors had been expected to argue Monday that they should be allowed to present at Jackson's trial evidence of wrongdoing in the pop star's past. But according to a court calendar released Monday, that motion won't be brought up until next month.

In another motion made public last week, Jackson's attorneys asked that the trial, scheduled to begin Jan. 31, be delayed until mid-March. That motion is to be argued at Monday's hearing Jackson, 46, is charged with molesting a boy, conspiracy and administering an intoxicating agent, alcohol, to his alleged victim. The entertainer—who on Friday personally greeted a group of children touring his Neverland Ranch before the Christmas holidays—was not required to attend this usual's beaching.

this week's hearings.

They also asked that the charges against Jackson be dismissed on grounds of "rindictive prosecution and outrageous government conduct," pointing to the execution of more than 100 search warrants including this month's unusual raid on Jackson's estate near Los Olivos. Superior could be considered to the conduct of the conduct o

Hearings on pretrial motions were scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday as well.



Defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. arrives for a pretrial hearing in the Michael Jackson child molestation case at the Santa Barbara County courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif., on Monday.

Cold winds blow over East Coast

The Associated Press

Freezing temperatures hit northern Florida on Monday morning and snow made mountain highways treacherous in the Appalachians as the first big cold wave of the season swept south-

ward.

Even North Carolina's Outer
Banks got a rare seaside dusting
of snow, and more than 2 feet fell
near the Great Lakes.

The blast of Arctic air — one day before the official start of winter — drove temperatures in the Florida Panhandle down to 31 degrees at Crestview, 32 at Pensaco-

Greensboro, N.C., posted a record low for Dec. 20 at 9, and Crossville, Tenn., dropped to 6. Farther north, it was 18 below zero at 9 a.m. at Massena, N.Y., with a wind chill of 28 below, the

National Weather Service said.
An autistic 9-year-old boy was missing in the woods near South Williamsport, Pa., where temperatures fell into the single digits during the night. Officials appealed to residents to search their property Monday for Logan Mitchel-

tree, who was last seen Saturday.

Icy pavement was blamed for at least two traffic deaths in New Jersey.

The icy wind sucked up moisture from the Great Lakes and dumped 26 inches of snow on Michigan City in northern Indi-

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Half of Americans fret about debt, poll finds

BY WILL LESTER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — During a season with shoppers racing

about to wrap up holiday spending, half of Americans say they worry about their overall level of debt, an Associated Press poll found.

two in 10 of those surveyed — who say they stay worried about their debt level most or all of the time.

Those debts can come from home and car loans as well as credit cards— even more so with December buying sprees. Three-fourths in the poll said they have credit cards.

Most people who have credit cards say they work to keep cortrol of them, but one in six with cards say they don't trust their own spending with plastic. Young adults and those who make less than \$25,000 a year were most likely to doubt their own ability to manage credit cards. Most who have credit cards say

they try to keep those card debts under control. But some still have trouble.

One-fourth of credit card users

one-tourn of credit card users say they use plastic to buy things when they don't have the money.

More than 1 million people file for personal bankruptcy each year, said Stephen Brobeck, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America.

"My strong sense from looking at lots of data, is that the number of people with debt problems is declining, but the number with severe debt problems is increasing," he said.

The total amount of revolving credit debt, such as that caused by credit cards, was just over \$600 billion five years ago and is almost \$800 billion now, according to the Federal Reserve.

In the survey, about 10 percent

of those with credit cards said they have missed making their minimum payment during the past six months.

Economists say people are missing fewer credit card payments by juggling their debts and getting new credit cards.

In recent years, low interest rates have helped many people get home equity loans and pay off credit card debts. But that simply shifts the debt around.

"We live in an age of easy money and people pull out the plastic to medicate their pain," said Chris Packard, a mental health therapist from Gilbert, Ariz.

"I have had patients who used their credit cards to punish spouses, to appease depression or anxiety or to try to satisfy an out-of-control child," Packard

Experiencing the highest levels of stress from debts were people at their credit card spending limit, those who are unmarried and have children, those without jobs and minorities.

Those with the lowest levels of

Those with the lowest levels of stress from debt were retirees, Republicans, married people, college graduates and people between age 30 and 49.

Those groups' stress levels were measured based on their responses to a series of questions asked of 1,000 adults about debt and stress.

About four in 10 of all people questioned said their total debt is at least "somewhat stressful." Also, more than half expect their debt will cause them problems over the next five years.

The AP-Ipsos poll of 1,000 adults was taken Dec. 6-8. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, slightly larger for the 790 people with credit cards.

Trevor Tompson, Associated Press manager of news surveys, contributed to this story.

Baby cut from womb of Mo. woman in good condition, hospital reports

BY H. HOLLINGSWORTH The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. 4-day-old girl who was cut from her strangled mother's womb was "remarkably good" condition Monday, a hospital spokeswoman said, and the alleged attacker faced an initial court appearance.

Authorities said Lisa Montgomery, 36, confessed to strangling Bobbie Jo Stinnett of Skidmore, Mo., on Thursday, cutting out the fetus and taking the baby back to Kansas, where she lives. She is accused of trying to pass the child off as her own to family and friends. Victoria Jo Stinnett, the baby girl, was later recovered un-

Montgomery was set to appear Monday afternoon before a federal judge in Kansas City, Kan., to hear the charge against her. She was later to be transferred to Missouri, where the charge was filed The office of U.S. Attorney Todd Graves filed a motion seeking to have Montgomery, charged with kidnapping resulting in death, held without bail pending a trial.

The child remained in the neonatal intensive care unit Monday at Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center in Topeka, Kan

"She's in remarkably good condition for what has happened to her," hospital spokeswoman Tami Motley said. There was no immediate indication when the infant might go home.

In the small northwestern Missouri town of Skidmore, the minister who presided over Stinnett's wedding last year is offering his services at her funeral on Tues-

They were kids in the neigh borhood, nice young kids, the Rev. Harold Hamon of Skidmore Christian Church, "She's just a real nice girl, real pretty, quiet and reserved.'

Hamon said he was probably addressing Christmas cards when Stinnett was killed at her home in Skidmore while her husband, Zeb, was at work. A short time later, a member of his congregation called to say she had heard an ambulance and wondered if anyone near the church was hurt. Hamon said he looked out the window and saw police cars parked in front of Stinnett's

"It's almost unbelievable that right under your nose something terrible can be happening, Hamon said

Stinnett's mother found her daughter's body in a pool of blood inside the couple's small white home on Thursday afternoon. Stinnett had been eight months

pregnant with her first child. Police recovered Stinnett's baby a day later after tracking Montgomery through e-mails she had sent Stinnett about buying a dog.

Montgomery, a mother of two lied to family and friends about being pregnant with twins and suffering a miscarriage, investigators said. Detectives doubt whether she was pregnant at all

She met her husband at a Topeka fast-food restaurant with Stinnett's haby, telling him she had gone into labor while shopping in the city, authorities said.

Montgomery's husband has not been charged.

A few similar cases have been reported. Two of the most highly publicized were in 1987, when Cindy Lynn Ray, who was 8 1/2 months pregnant, was abducted and slain in Albuquerque, N.M., and in 1995, when Debra Evans, nine months pregnant, was slain in Addison, Ill. In both cases, infants were cut from their wombs and kidnapped.



Maj. Gen. Galen B. Jackman stands on a giant map during a preview of

Inauguration security to be tightest ever

By CURT ANDERSON The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Rush will be sworn in next month for a second term amid the tightest security in inaugural history. with police planning to search every one of the tens of thousands of people expected to line the parade route.

Behind the scenes, thousands of specialized law enforcement and military personnel will stand

ready to respond to any emergen-Security planners say they have seen no intelligence indicating terrorists will attempt to target the first inauguration since al-Qaida's attack against the Unit-

ed States on Sept. 11, 2001. But au-

thorities are preparing for the

worst, even as they strive for as open and accessible an event as possible. "We are aware we are at war," said Terrance W. Gainer, police chief at the Capitol, where the ceremony will be held. "The whole world will truly be watching. We have to be on guard."

The Jan. 20 inauguration is the latest in a string of major events highly symbolic of U.S. democracy - the Democratic and Republican party conventions last summer and the election itself in No-

vember. Counterterrorism officials have warned since spring that al-Qaida operatives are interested in disrupting the democratic process

To the millions watching the inauguration on television worldwide, the ceremony and parade will look much as it has in the past. But each person attending the swearing-in and parade will be subjected to a search by metal detectors, security personnel or both. And there will be more Washington streets closed and more security fencing than ever to create a large buffer zone.

"We have it as well covered as it can possibly be," said Michael A. Mason, head of the FBI's Washington field office.

The inauguration is designated a National Special Security Event, giving the Secret Service the lead among about 40 federal agencies involved in security

planning and execution. A joint command center has been set up in suburban Virginia to enable top officials at these agencies to make quick, coordinated decisions in the event of an attack, violent protest or other problem.

"We're going to work as a team," Secret Service spokesman Tom Mazur said.

The extra security measures include bomb-sniffing dogs, sophisticated sensors to detect chemical, radiological or biological material, and expanded use of police helicopters and military aircraft. Thousands of police officers from the Washington suburbs and other cities will arrive to help with traffic, crowd control and other duties

More will be ready to respond behind the scenes. The FBI, for example, will have investigators, evidence technicians, hostage rescue teams, heavily armed SWAT personnel, hazardous materials experts and bomb technicians in place.

"Our whole focus is a smooth operation if something does hap-pen," Mason said. "We will be able to bring quite a robust force.

Possible arson motives

INDIAN HEAD, Md. - Federal investigators say two possible motives have emerged for fires that caused \$10 million in damage at an unscale housing development in the Washington sub-

EVCHANCE DATES

LACHANGE	INAI	ட
Military rat	os	
Furn costs		\$1.373
Dollar costs		€0.728
Japanese yen (Dec. 22) South Korean won (Dec.		102.0
South Korean won (Dec	21)	1.031.0
Commercial r	ates	
Bahrain (Dinar) British pound		0.376
British pound		1.938
Canada (Dollar)		1.22
Denmark (Krone)		5.2
Egypt (Pound)		6.225
Canada (Dollar)	\$1.3287	/0.752
Hong Kong (Dollar)		7.780
Iceland (Krona)		61.8
Israel (Shekel)		4.338
Israel (Shekel) Japan (Yen)		104.3
Kuwait (Dinar)		0.294
Norway (Krone) Philippines (Peso)		5.7
Philippines (Peso)		56.2
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)		3.5
Singapore (Dollar)		1.644
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PRECIOUS METALS

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INTEREST RATES

Four men have been charged with arson at the Hunters Brooke development, where fires on Dec. 6 destroyed 10 houses and damaged 16 others.

No one was hurt; many of the homes were still under construc-

Three of the men had a hearing scheduled Monday in federal

U.S. rentals report

WASHINGTON - Most Americans who rely on just a full-time job earning the federal minimum wage cannot afford the rent and utilities on a one- or two-bedroom apartment, an advocacy group on low-income housing reported Monday. For two-bedroom rental

alone, the typical worker must earn at least \$15.37 an hour nearly three times the federal minimum wage, the National Low Income Housing Coalition said in its annual "Out of Reach" report

That figure assumes that a family spends no more than 30 percent of its gross income on rent and utilities — anything more is enerally considered unaffordable by the government.

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Eliminating 'latte factor'

NEW YORK - When it comes to saving money, you've probably heard about the necessity of find ing your "latte factor."

The meaning of this now common term is simple — everyone has some daily expense that adds up to hundreds of dollars a year. It could be a \$3 gourmet latte coffee drink, a \$10 takeout lunch or a \$5 pack of cigarettes.

Eliminating your latte factor is a priority no matter when you start saving for retirement, explains author David Bach in his new book, "Start Late, Finish Rich." But if you're starting later in life, you need to double the savings from cutting your latte factors

First, look at your daily expenses. Do you often buy your morning coffee or breakfast on the way to work? Instead of spending money on breakfast or lunch out, set your alarm a few minutes earlier to pack a lunch and have breakfast at home. Take advantage of your office's coffee ma-chine. If you smoke cigarettes. this is the perfect excuse to quit

Then, examine your weekly nonthly and annual latte factors. Look for luxuries and un-necessary expenses. Consider how much you spend on premium cable channels, cell phones. weekly manicures, cab rides, ex-pensive dinners out, entertainnent, gym memberships, designer clothes and vacations

If you can't completely eliminate the expense, aim to cut it in half. Bach advises. The key is to monitor your spending. Decide what is necessary for you and cut the rest out.

IN THE WORLD

Russia's freedom steps backward

Watchdog faults Putin as nation restricts rights

BY JUDITH INGRAM The Associated Press

MOSCOW - Russia has restricted rights to such an extent that it has joined the countries that are not free for the first time since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, Freedom House said Monday, marking Moscow's march cies it has embraced as diplomat-

"This setback for freedom renresented the year's most impor-tant political trend," the U.S.-based nongovernmental organization wrote in its annual study, Freedom in the World 2005

Freedom House noted increased Kremlin control over national television and other media, limitations on local government, and parliamentary and presidential elections it said were neither free nor fair.

"Russia's step backward into the Not Free category is the culmination of a growing trend under President Vladimir Putin to concentrate political authority, harass and intimidate the media, and politicize the country's law-enforce-ment system," Executive Director Jennifer Windsor said.

"These moves mark a dangerous and disturbing drift toward authoritarianism in Russia, made more worrisome by President Putin's recent heavy-handed med-



Moscow's Kremlin. Freedom House, a U.S.-based organization that tracks the progress of political rights and civil liberties across the world, said Monday that Russia had declined to the status of "not free."

dling in political developments in neighboring countries, such as Ukraine

The report accused Putin of exploiting the terrorist seizure of a school in southern Russia to ram through what Freedom House called the dismantlement of local authority. In the wake of the attack, which killed more than 330 people. Putin introduced a plan to end the election of governors by popular vote and the election of legislators in individual races

Currently, the 450 seats in the lower house of parliament are equally split between those filled through party lists and those contested in district races. The Russian Foreign Ministry

had no immediate comment on the report, which said that Russia had reached its lowest point where political rights and civic freedoms are concerned since 1989. Freedom House said that on balance, the world saw in-creased freedom in 2004: 26 countries showed gains while 11 showed decline

Of the world's 192 countries, it judged 46 percent free, 26 percent not free, and the rest partly free. Eight rated as the most repressive: Burma, Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Turkmenistan.

The NGO said that only Central and Eastern Europe had seen "dramatic progress" over the

past year. It noted that Bosnia-Herzegovina's rating had im-proved following the first elections organized entirely by Bosnian institutions.
In the Middle East, Freedom

House rated just Israel as free. Five countries in the region, in-

cluding Jordan and Yemen, are partly free, and 12 are not free. It said the territories occupied by Israel and run by the Palestinian Authority were not free.
Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and

Qatar registered modest gains, reedom House said.
It registered democratic gains

in the former Soviet republics of Georgia and Ukraine, where popular protests forced the cancellation of the results of fraudulent elections over the past 13 months.

"The positive experiences in Georgia and Ukraine indicate that democratic ferment and non-violent civic protest are potent forces for political change," Windsor said. "They also reinforce freedom's gradual global ad-

The former Soviet republics of Belarus, Armenia and Lithuania saw setbacks — the first two due to the authorities' increasingly harsh response to dissent, and the latter because of "worrying ques-tions about the full autonomy of Lithuania's political leadership in the wake of President Roland Paksas' impeachment amid allegations of influence by the Russian mafia.

Freedom House, a Washington-based, nonpartisan group, was founded nearly 60 years ago by Americans concerned about threats to democracy. It conducts advocacy, research and training to encourage and nurture democ-

Most of the estimated 2 000 neo-

ple who die from AIDS-related ill-

nesses each week are unable to af-

ford treatment and are usually

sent home to die if they have been

The nation is suffering acute

The government estimates that

shortages of hard currency and

essential imports, including medi-

26 percent of Zimbabwe's people

are infected with HIV/AIDS, but

officials acknowledge the rate

could be higher because of a stig-

ma that leaves many conditions

briefly hospitalized.

tion caches vet at a storage facility on the southern outskirts of the

al squad that went to the site after a tip from a local man found more than 500 rockets and mortar rounds. The weapons will be destroyed.

thing occurring more frequently where Afghans are disclosing the location of these weapons" said Lt. Cmdr. Ken MacKillop, a spokesman for the International

"This is an indication that the Afghan people are feeling safer now and that they believe that they no longer need to rely on the use of these weapons and ammunition in order to survive."

AIDS marks its toll on orphans in Zimbabwe

The Associated Press

HARARE. Zimbabwe - Nearly a million children in Zimbabwe have lost one or both parents to AIDS and HIV-related illnesses, the United Nations Children's Fund said Monday.

Girls as young as nine were caring for siblings or for ailing parents and relatives in Zimbabwe. UNICEF said in its annual State of the World's Children report.

With an estimated 26 percent of the country's 12.5 million people infected with HIV, orphans were dropping out of school, often

Report: Nearly a million have lost parents due to HIV-related illnesses

airlifted by heliconter

suffered from malnutrition and were "more likely to be involved in hazardous forms of labor" including prostitution, said Festo Kavishe, UNICEF's chief representative in Harare.

The fund's report on Zimbabwe said the social and economic consequences of HIV/AIDS were underscored by the decline in life expectancy from age 52 to 37 since

In traditionally polygamous African societies, HIV is mostly spread by heterosexual contact as well as needles and blades contaminated with infected blood

Zimbabwe is facing its worst economic crisis since independence, with soaring prices and record unemployment. Public health services have crumbled

unreported as being HIV-related. They said the German was dead at the scene and that the American died later at a hospital where he had been

The victims were skiing off-trail in deep powder and were not wearing avalanche transmitters that emit a sig-nal to help rescuers locate people buried in snow, Austri an television reported.

Army chief to be replaced

PODGORICA, Serbia-Montenegro - The head of the Serbia-Montenegro army and some of his closest associates could be replaced later this week as part of routine staff changes, the president of tiny Montenegro was quoted as saying on Monday

Filip Vujanovic told Montenegrin daily Pobijeda that the changes among the top generals, many of who are retiring, could take place at a session of the country's top de-

fense body on Friday. Vujanovic added that "we will appoint not only the new army chief of staff, but also new members of the army eadquarters as some of the people will retire."

It was not immediately clear who could replace Gen. Branko Krga and his associates. Serbia-Montenegro officials have said that Krga's retirement was routine and ex-

Vujanovic said that "the most important thing is that (the new army chief of staff) be a reformist, a man that will carry out sensitive reforms, including reduction of the army troops.

Six killed in firefight at Afghan checkpoint

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan -A vehicle carrying a group of suspected Taliban fighters attacked a military checkpoint in southern Afghanistan, sparking a firefight that left six dead and at least four wounded, police said Monday.

Kandahar police chief Khan Mohammed said the attack occurred at 6 p.m. Sunday in Maivand district, 90 miles west of Kandahar city.

The exchange of gunfire killed four soldiers and a civilian, and the attackers left behind the body of one fighter as they drove away, police said. Security forces were pursuing them.

In a senarate incident two American soldiers were wounded Saturday when their patrol came under small arms fire northeast of Shinkay, in adjacent Zabul province, U.S. Maj. Mark McCann told reporters.

Both were evacuated after the firefight and are in stable condi tion awaiting transport to a U.S. medical facility in Germany, he

It was unclear how many attackers were involved, but Mc-Cann said it likely was no more

Also Monday, international peacekeepers said they had found one of the largest ammuni-

A Canadian explosives dispos-

"We are seeing this type of Security Assistance Force.

Two skiers killed in avalanche INNSBRUCK, Austria - Avalanches killed two skiers

and seriously injured another Monday, and experts warned that recent storms have created unstable conditions ripe for more snow slides in Austria's Alps. A 41-year-old American and a 39-year-old German

died in an avalanche in Lech am Arlberg in the southwestern province of Vorarlberg that also critically injured the American's wife, also 41, the Austria Press Agency re-

Officials did not immediately release the names or hometowns of the victims, who were located after a 30-minute search by 15 mountain rescue experts using a pair of specially trained dogs.

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This reexposes is sufficiently for publication by the Department of De-tects for installing of the Milliam Systems exercises. However, the con-tention of the Milliam Systems exercises. However, the con-cent as the efficial select of the effect of the U.S. Comments, closely-ing the Department of Deletine or the U.S. Comments, closely-ing the Department of the Deletine or the U.S. Comments, closely-ing the Department of the Comments of the Comments of the Acceptance of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments and the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Section of the Comments of the Com

able for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affilia tion, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Please return missing goods

I recently returned from serving in Iraq Prior to leaving theater, I, like many other servicemembers mailed some personal be longings back to the States to reduce the amount of stuff I would have to carry. I bought a plastic footlocker from the post ex change, loaded it up and took it to the post office. After they inspected it, I locked it with a padlock and sent it on its way.

Imagine my surprise when the footlock-er showed up at my house, minus the lock. It had been sealed with plastic banding. I opened it and discovered most of what was inside wasn't mine. Only a couple of articles of clothing actually belonged to me. After sorting through everything, I discov ered that there was property of three other persons inside. Using some of the correspondence I found inside, I tracked down two of the people and called them. One lives in Arkansas, the other in Florida. I told them who I was and what the situation was. Both were also missing items.

I mailed what I had of theirs to them, and one of them is mailing some of my stuff to me. The rest of what I am missing is why I am writing. Somewhere along the line, someone cut the lock off my footlocker and removed an ammo can that contained several DVDs and PlayStation 2 games. Whoev-er was responsible for this then filled the empty space with three other persons' prop-erty. One of the persons I contacted told me that he was missing a GameBoy Advance

and several games. I don't know if whoever got into my footlocker was military or not, or even where the theft occurred. I really don't care. I ap peal to whoever took my things to contact me and return them. My e-mail is brian thomas.reynolds@us.army.mil. send my stateside address, and if my stuff is sent back to me. I will mail the sender a money order to cover the cost of shipping. no questions asked. I realize this is a long

shot, but it's worth a try. Also, this should serve as an example to anyone else mailing stuff. Be sure to insure nackages and think twice about what vou send. It might be worth it to carry stuff by hand rather than take the chance of it coming up missing

Spc. Brian T. Reynolds South Rend Ind

Stop whining over badge

To the writer of "No CIB in an Army of One" (Dec. 9): First and foremost, I think soldiers need to stop whining about not being awarded a badge that is distinctive to a particular military occupational specialty. Let's look at the name of the badge: Combat Infantryman Badge. It is not the Combat Military Policeman Badge or the Combat Truck Driver Badge.

I believe every MOS contributes toward taking the fight to the enemy. Particular ones are just more directly involved in en-gaging the enemy. Everyone faces danger every time they roll outside the wire, but let's keep the badges where they belong.

If the letter writer still feels he deserves a CIB, here is my suggestion: The next time his re-enlistment window opens up, talk to

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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his career counselor about reclassifying to the appropriate MOS that will allow him to

be eligible for it. Unless he is willing to do that, I suggest he stop whining.

The infantry earned the right to wear a CIB by being an infantry soldier. If the writer is keen on changing Army regulations so that other MOSs are eligible for the CIB. then there are other avenues he can pursue

instead of complaining in a letter Sgt. Michael C. Ramirez Camp Falcon, Iraq

Worry about surviving, not CIB

I did my active duty as an infantryman in Fort Campbell, Ky., with the hard-core 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment and with the 2nd Infantry Division Currahee Scouts up in the demilitarized zone in South Korea. I have been serving as a military policeman at Abu Ghraib prison in

Baghdad for the past 10 months.

Do I think that I deserve a Combat Infantryman Badge? Of course not, I clearly understand AR 600-8-22. What's so hard to understand? If you are not infantry, you just don't get it. Period. Back in garr nobody wants to be a grunt, probably because we were always out in the field training, while everybody else, well almost everybody, was back on post enjoying ev-erything else the Army had to offer. Now, all of a sudden, everybody wants to be infantry. Why? To wear the CIB because it looks cool on your uniform?

I'm not saying those in other military occupational specialties don't do as much as infantry units do out there, because everybody is doing an outstanding job, and if we all did our job without worrying about what award we will get for doing it, it would make everyone's life a whole lot easier. If you wanted to wear the CIB, you should have gone infantry. You knew that there was a slight possibility that you would be going to combat, unless you signed up just for the college money.

Guess what? This is reality. Welcome. Now, would you just please stop complaining about it and just keen doing the outstanding job every one of you has been doing so we can, one day, all be back home with our loved ones ... with or without a CIB? And yes, we are an Army of One Sgt. Jaime Rodriguez Abu Ghraib, Iraa

A complaint on complaining

That's it! I've had it with all the whining letter writers and I've decided to throw in my 2 cents' worth. All my wrath is from selected letters to the editor from the past week

■ The Combat Infantryman Badge is for infantry only (which I am not). Everyone who complains about not being authorized a CIB sounds like a little kid: "Mommy, mommy, I want what that man has." Good for you. When re-up time comes, utilize the Bonus Extension and Retraining pro gram and you can earn one, too. Why do vou even care about awards/entitlements right now? Worry about everyone in your unit making it back to the world alive.

Smoking is bad. People are complain-

ing about the Marlboro man picture. I agree that smoking is bad (I don't smoke) but so are bullets, mortars, vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices and road-side bombs. I'd rather die smoking.

■ Kuwait. Are you kidding me? How's

the vay-cay going? Yes, everyone there says they want to be here. So put your money where your mouth is and come join us up in the real deal. So I won't be con-fused with a "pog," I am on my second tour in Iraq (I volunteered to come back), I am a Purple Heart recipient who would not leave my unit when my father passed away because I was raised by my parents to honor my commitments. I have been over here more in the past two years than I've been with my wife and kids (whom I both dearly love). I am not doing this for the awards (or lack thereof); I am doing this for the honor of serving my country like my father and grandfather did before Spc. Jonathan B. Nunemaker

Hunting has positive purpose

I would like to ask the writer of the letter "Hunting photo unnecessary" (Dec. 11) what hunting has to do with proving our manhood. Does that mean the numerous women who hunt are trying to prove their womanhood? But maybe she is right, it is so much better to see an "innocent animal starve to death, suffering for months, because of overpopulation and lack of food.

I will agree with the writer on one thing: Yes there are a few people who are barbar ic with hunting and to my knowledge that is called poaching.

I understand that people have different views on everything, but to be called a "coward" and a "yahoo" because of a sport that I and many others enjoy is just too much. I could think of many names that people with her point of view could be called, but I refuse to stoop to name-call-ing. Instead I will think of her and smile when I am enjoying my next dinner of venison.

Sgt. Timothy C. Irwin Ragouha Iraa

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury









OPINION

Time is right for 'Chemical Ali' to face trial

Los Angeles Times

here are plenty of complications involved in trying Saddam Hussein and others from his regime for crimes committed against the Iraqi people, but none that argues for further delay. Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi was right to announce that some of the war-crimes trials would start this week, including that of Ali Hassan al-Maiid, known as "Chemical Ali," a cousin of Saddam's believed to have used poison gas to murder thousands of Kurds

If the trials don't get under way, Saddam and his henchmen may never face justice. It's true that Allawi's every move in the run-up to the Jan. 30 elections is politically motivated, especially now that he has declared his own candidacy. But it could be a long wait before a democratic government with more legitimacy could initiate these proceedings, and the mostly Sunni defendants would still accuse the majority Shiites of unfairness. Indeed, the legal safeguards afforded the defendants, combined with the weight of the evidence, will determine whether these trials are deemed credible. For that reason, the government should televise the proceedings

There is also a matter of basic fairness and due process. Keeping Saddam's lieu-

tenants indefinitely locked up without charging them is hardly the way to launch a new democracy, even if Washington has set a poor example at Guantanamo Bay

It's almost unavoidable, as the Nuremhere war crimes trials showed that these trials will be seen to some extent as "vic-

In 1945, Chief Justice of the United States Harlan Fiske Stone called the pros cution being led by his colleague Robert Jackson a "high-grade lynching party.

It's a foregone conclusion that Saddam and his cohorts, like the Nazis, are guilty of heinous crimes. The accomplishment of Nuremberg was to shock and re-educate the German people by creating a documentary record of the Nazi regime's crimes and atrocities. In a traumatized Iraq, trials could have a similarly cathartic effect.

The real question is whether Iraq's judges are capable of carrying out the trials. The prosecutors need to work their way through mounds of documents and careful ly prepare for belligerent defendants, especially the canny Saddam, who will attempt. as much as possible, to disrupt the proceedings and turn them into a circus.

The Bush administration, which has refused to acknowledge the jurisdiction of the nermanent International Criminal Court in The Hague, has asked for the help



The war-crimes trial for Ali Hassan al-Majid, who is shown in Beirut, Lebanon, last year, began this week. Al-Majid, a member of Saddam Hussein's government, is known as "Chemical Ali."

of the United Nations in assisting prosecutors and judges. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has disgracefully refused to help, claiming that Iraq's death penalty prevents the United Nations from participating But that hasn't prevented the United Nations from helping to carry out judicial reform in Rwanda and Afghanistan, which have the death penalty

Those seeking to postpone justice can always point to some logistical or political reason for putting off these trials. But given their length — the main Nuremberg war crimes trial dragged on for more than a year, and former Serbian dictator Slo-bodan Milosevic continues to tie up the proceedings in his trial at The Hague lawi is right to want to get started.

Democracy in Afghanistan can be an example for Iraq

By DONALD RUMSFELD

"The ladies are coming to vote, because the future belongs to us — to us and our children." — Provincial elections official,

Afghanistan, October 2004 ontrast that with this quote about women from a Taliban minister only a few years ago: "It's like having a flower, or a rose. You water it and keep it at home for yourself to look at. ... It is not sup-

posed to be taken out of the house On Dec. 7, I attended the inauguration of the first democratical-

ly elected national leader in Afghani-

extraordinary

stan's history It is something we would have considered not just unlikely, or naive — but down-

History has a way of overcoming expectations and conventional wisdom. In my lifetime, I have seen Germany become a genocidal and expansionistic dictatorship and then a democratic ally of the United States within a span of a relatively few years. I have seen the Berlin Wall first rise and then fall — along with the totalitarian empire that built it.

Consider Afghanistan's October election, another such watershed moment in history. Just over three years ago, an ex-tremist, barbaric regime ruled that couna country that had suffered through decades of civil war, drought and Soviet occupation, and had no experience with democracy or individual rights. The Taliban beat women for exposing their ankles, forbade them from attending school, walking unaccompanied on city streets or seeing a male doctor. Kabul's soccer stadium was used not for soccer, but for public execu-

And as Americans know all too well, Afghanistan served as the base for al-Oaida's planning, training and operations. Osama bin Laden was the Taliban's favored guest On Oct. 9, 2004, as a result of the bravery and hard work of coalition forces and, most of all, the Afghan people, more than 8 million people were able to vote — some 40 percent of them women — in the first free elections in Afghanistan's history.

In addition, 3 million Afghan refugees have returned to their homeland since 2002 and it is estimated that the economy is growing at a rate of some 7 percent per

Thousands of brave young men have volunteered to serve in Afghanistan's multiethnic army, which is taking the fight to extremists and those terrorists who may still be harboring fantasies of returning to power and privilege.

And Kabul's soccer stadium is now used not for public beheadings, but for soccer, None of this was considered possible much less likely, by much if not most of

so-called expert opinion three years ago. The mantra is now familiar: Afghanistan could not pursue democracy because it was neglected and ignored by a Bush administration obsessed with Iraq; that the Taliban were making a comeback and al-Oaida was on the march: that democracy and voting were irrevocably alien to the Afghan people and their culture. In every instance, the critics were

wrong. Afghans - including millions of women — hraved threats and intimidation traveled great distances, and waited in line for hours to cast ballots for their first demo cratically elected president. They will do so again next year when Afghanistan has its parliamentary elections — another important milestone, as well as a logistical and security challenge

In Iraq, many of the widely popular nega tive sentiments are the same as we heard about Afghanistan, but so too is the potential for success. We are still less than two years from when Iraq was ruled by a murderous dictator who brutalized his country, looted its wealth and neglected its infrastructure.

No doubt the Iraq insurgency is more widespread, the casualties heavier, the obstacles seemingly more daunting. The reward for success - a free and peaceful Iraq — and the unthinkable consequences of failure are extraordinarily high, as the extremists well know. They have so much

Democratic elections in Iraq will deal a

similarly devastating blow to the terrorists seeking to take that country back to a dark place. And the impact will be felt not just in Iraq — wedged as it is between two dangerous regimes in the heart of the Middle East - but in that entire region

So we should take stock - and take pride - in what has been accomplished in the global war on terror, but stay vigilant and clear-eyed about the challenges ahead in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere. And these challenges are real.

As in Afghanistan, success in Iraq will come from the perseverance of the free world, embodied by the valor and professionalism of the men and women in uniform, the coalition forces, and the new Iraqi security forces who are risking their lives every day, working with the newly liberated people to overcome intimidation and violence and to build a better life and future for themselves and their families.

In the last analyses, it will be up to the Iraqi people and I believe they have a good crack at making it. I say this because the great sweep of human history is for freedom. And that is on our side.

hald Rumsfeld is secretary of defense

Mallard Fillmore

By BRUCE TINSLEY



		He detect on the least	AFR	TS Televisio	n Schedule	to at hits flowerfunds do a	and will	
		Updated sports list	ings are available on the first	Scoreboard page in the spi TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2		te at http://myafn.dodmedia.	osd.mil/	
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 9:30	The Wild Thornberrys The Wild Thornberrys	Movie ** "Danger Island" (1992) Richard Beymer Kathy	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy! Headline News	Nightline Army Newswatch	College Basketball Princeton at Temple (Taped)	30-Minute Meals Sweet Dreams	Jeopardy! Headline News
10:00	ChalkZone (EI)	Ireland. Plane-crash survivors	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews	us rempre. (rapes)	Best for Less	ESPNews
10:30	ChalkZone River adventure.	battle biological freaks.	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The document of the state of th		Stripped	Pacific Report
11:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	(10:48) Movie *** "Ocean's	1	NFL Football New England Pa-	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	E News	NFL Football New England F
11:30	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Eleven" (2001) George Clooney. A suave ex-con assembles a	(:17) General Hospital	triots at Miami Dolphins. From Pro Player Stadium in Miami.			The King of Queens	triots at Miami Dolphins. From Pro Player Stadium in Miami.
12:00	Kim Possible (EI) Kim Possible	team to rob a casino vault.	Headline News Judge Judy	i io i iajoi oladian ii mani.	FOX News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced	That '70s Show Girlfriends	Tro r layer cadadin in inidin.
12:30 13:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie *** "Pretty in Pink"	Today Dennis Quaid; holiday		Fox and Friends		Charmed "Centennial	
13:30	Movie ★★% "The Wild Thorn-	1(1986, Drama) Molly Ringwald, A	hairstyles.				Charmed"	
14:00	berrys Movie" (2002) Voices of Lacey Chabert, Tom Kane.	poor edectic teen is romanced by a wealthy classmate.		ESPNews	Fox and Friends		Ally McBeal "The Ex-Files"	ESPNews
14:30	Funniest Home Videos	(2:51) Movie ±x "The Fan"	I Can	Pacific Report The Tonight Show	American Morning	SportsCenter	Ann Day Many (Clay of Conser	Pacific Report
15:00 15:30	Full House	(1996) Robert De Niro. A	I Spy Animaniacs	The forlight Show	American morning	NBA Baskethall Teams to Be	Any Day Now "Stay of Execu- tion"	The Tonight Show
16:00	Pokémon	slumping baseball star is stalked by a psychotic admirer.	All Grown Up	Late Show	CNN Live Today	Announced.	ER "A Saint in the City"	Late Show
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!		Teen Kids News (EI)	1				
	Aaahh! Real Monsters	The Entertainers	Jeopardy!	Headline News			Law & Order "True North"	Headline News
17:30	Rocket Power SpongeBob SquarePants	Behind the Scenes	Headline News ESPNews	The Late Late Show	FOX News	CandaCastas	The Simpsons	The Late Late Show
18:00 18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller		SportsCenter	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
19:00	Olive, the Other Reindeer	Movie ** "Vertical Limit"	Smallville "Hereafter"		FOX News	NFL Football New England Pa	Star Trek: Enterprise "North	1
19:30	1	(2000) Chris O'Donnell, Bill Paxton, Mountain climbers are		Countdown With Keith Olber-		triots at Miami Dolphins. From Pro Player Stadium in Miami.	Star"	Countdown With Keith Olbe
20:00	Everwood "My Funny Valen- fine"	trapped in an icy cave on K2.	Movie *** "Elf" (2003, Com- edy) Will Ferrell, James Caan, A.	mann Entertainment Studios.com	FOX News		CSI: Crime Scene Investiga- tion "Lucky Strike"	mann Entertainment Studios.com
20:30	Sister, Sister "I Do?"	(:13) Movie ** "Double Plat-	man leaves Santa's workshop to	Entertainment Studios.com The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	1	Jamie's Kitchen	Entertainment Studios.com The Hot List
21:00	Sister, Sister "The Natural"	inum" (1999) Diana Ross.	search for his family.	Headline News	Studio D With Shepard Shillar		Danie S Kitchen	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show "Trust Me"	Brandy. A rising young singer's mother steps back into her life.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	The Hot List	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show	1		NFL Live	Seinfeld	
23:00	Touched by an Angel "The Trigger"	Movie ** "Birdy" (1984, Drama) Nicolas Cage.	Late Show		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn Pardon the Interruption	The Daily Show Blind Date	
23:30	mage:	Diana) recous ougo.	Late Snow	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER	22 2004	Pardon the interruption	Dilliu Date	
00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	(11:00) Movie ** "Birdy"	(11:30) Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power	(1984, Drama) Nicolas Cage.	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News	1		Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	(:08) Movie ** "Opposing Force" (1986) Tom Skerritt. A	College Basketball Texas Tech at Iowa. (Live)	Blue's Clues "Nature"	ABC World News Tonight	Sonic Bowl Mania Insider	Star Trek: Enterprise "North Star"	Blue's Clues "Nature"
1:30	Rugrats Olive, the Other Reindeer	deranged survival camp leader	at lowa. (Live)	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News The NewsHour With Jim	(:45) College Football Champs Sports Bowl Geor-	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil
2:00	Olive, the Other Helifacer	wages real war on recruits.		Di. Filli	Lehrer	gia Tech vs. Syracuse. From Or	tion "Lucky Strike"	Di. Filli
3:00	Everwood "My Funny Valen-	Movie ** "Vertical Limit"	College Basketball UCLA at	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes	lando, Fla. (Live)	Jamie's Kitchen	Oprah Winfrey
3:30	tine" Sister, Sister "I Do?"	(2000) Chris O'Donnell, Bill Paxton. Mountain climbers are	Michigan State. (Live)	NDO NO LOS NO	Headline News		Friends	NOO NE LUE N
4:00 4:30	Sister, Sister "The Natural"	trapped in an icy cave on K2.		NBC Nightly News Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report	-	Friends Seinfeld	NBC Nightly News Judge Judy
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	(:13) Movie * * "Double Plat-	Headline News	Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight	(:15) SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
5:30		inum" (1999) Diana Ross, Brandy. A rising young singer's	ESPNews	(:25) Guiding Light			Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	mother steps back into her life.	Headline News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	(44) 500)	Body Shaping TilPical Mary Ellen	(:13) General Hospital
6:30 7:00	Blue's Clues Dragon Tales (EI)	The Entertainers	Headline News Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	(:41) ESPNews NFL Total Access	The View	Svivester & Tweetv
7:00	Bob the Builder	THE EMELLINES	Bear in the Big Blue House	Larry raing Earc	Tremornight With Auton Brown	III E TOLLI ACCOCC		Buzz Lightyear of Star
8:00	The Wiggles "Food"	Behind the Scenes	Blue's Clues "Nature"	The Fairly OddParents	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	The Fairly OddParents
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	My Life as a Teenage Robot	Tavis Smiley			My Life as a Teenage Robot
9:00 9:30	The Wild Thornberrys The Wild Thornberrys	Movie "One Woman's Courage" (1994) Pathy Duke, Marcot Kidder.	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy! Headline News	Nightline Headline News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Meals Food 911	Jeopardy! Headline News
10:00	ChalkZone (EI)	A killer stalks the witness who testi-	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews	1	Sensible Chic	ESPNews
10:30	ChalkZone (EI)	fied against him.	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block			Fashion File	Pacific Report
11:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	(10:48) Movie *** "Die Hard 2" (1990) Bruce Willis.	L	The Parkers "She's Positive"	The O'Reilly Factor	l	E! News Live	The Parkers "She's Positive"
11:30 12:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius Kim Possible "Downhill"	Bonnie Bedelia, An L.A. coo	(:17) General Hospital Headline News	Arrested Development The 4400 "The New & Im-	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak SportsCenter	The King of Queens That '70s Show	Arrested Development The 4400 "The New & Im-
12:00	Kim Possible "Bueno Nacho"	battles terrorists in Washington.	Judge Judy	proved Carl Morrissey"	- on news		Girlfriends	proved Carl Morrissey"
13:00	Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie ★★% "Bring It On"	Today Barbara Streisand:	The 4400 "Becoming"	Fox and Friends	College Basketball Texas Tech		The 4400 "Becoming"
13:30	Movie ★★% "Balto" (1995, Adventure) Voices of Kevin Ba-	(2000, Comedy) Kirsten Dunst, Fliza Dushku Jesse Bradford	Dustin Hoffman; books as gifts.			at Iowa. (Taped)		
14:00	con, Bob Hoskins.	(:44) Movie +++ "Love &	1	Pacific Report The Tonight Show	Fox and Friends		Ally McBeal "Mr. Bo"	Pacific Report The Tonight Show
14:30 15:00	Funniest Home Videos	Basketball* (2000, Drama)	Sylvester & Tweety	The follight Show	American Morning	College Basketball UCLA at	Any Day Now "Still My Little	THE TURNISH SHOW
15:30	Full House "The Volunteer"	Sanaa Lathan, Omar Epps. A passion for the game leads to	Buzz Lightyear of Star	Late Show	1	Michigan State. (Live)	Soldier"	Late Show
16:00	Pokémon Max's first battle.	love for two best friends.	The Fairly OddParents		CNN Live Today	1	ER "No Good Deed Goes Un-	
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! Aaahh! Real Monsters	Inside the Astern Chief	My Life as a Teenage Robot Jeopardy!	Access Hollywood	4	CandaCantas	punished" Law & Order "Hate"	Access Hollywood
17:00 17:30	Aaahh! Real Monsters Rocket Power	Inside the Actors Studio	Jeopardy! Headline News	Headline News The Late Late Show	1	SportsCenter	raw & Otder Hate.	Headline News The Late Late Show
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Coming Attractions	ESPNews	The Edit Edit Office	FOX News	PGA Tour Season Review A	The Simpsons	
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller		review of the PGA season.	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
19:00	How-Grinch Stole Christmas	Movie ** "U-571" (2000) Matthew McConaughey, Allied	The Parkers "She's Positive"	0	FOX News	College Football Champs Sports Bowl Georgia Tech vs.	The Amazing Race	A
19:30	Little Drummer Boy Gilmore Girls "Nick & Nora/Sid	sailors hatch a dangerous plan	Arrested Development The 4400 "The New & Im-	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	FOX News	Syracuse. From Orlando, Fla.	Andromeda "Fair Unknown"	Countdown With Keith Olber
20:00	& Nancy"	to capture a Nazi sub.	proved Carl Morrissey"	Entertainment Studios.com	I OA NEWS		Androneua Fan UnkriOWT	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Degrassi: Next	(:08) Movie ** * "Before	The 4400 "Becoming"	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith		Discovery Specials: Ameri-	The Hot List
21:30	Degrassi: Next	Sunrise" (1995) Ethan Hawke. Two young travelers share a		Headline News	1	The Hot List	can Commandos	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	whirlwind romance in Vienna.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	The Hot List First and Ten	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement Touched by an Angel "Re-	Movie ★★% "Single White Fe-	The Tonight Show		Your World With Neil Cavuto Lester Holt Live	First and Ten Around the Horn	Seinfeld "The Strongbox" The Daily Show	1
23:00	deeming Love"	male" (1992 Suspense)	Lata Chaw	ł		Dandan the Intermetica	Diad Date	1



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FACES

TLC searching for vocal help

Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas and Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins are looking to collaborate with a new voice, but the TLC stars insist they're not trying to replace the late Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes

"Nothing has changed. We're not replacing Lisa," Tho mas said in a recent interview. "We're not looking for a



omas and Watkins were seeking to

fill the shoes of Lopes, who died in a car crash in Honduras in 2002 But the duo said then that they

would never try to replace Lopes perhaps the most dynamic member of the trio, with her colorful personality and energetic raps. Instead, they say they're simply looking for a fan to perform with them for a one-time performance and for a song on the greatest hits project

Sandler not getting too serious

Although he shows more dramatic range than usual in "Spanglish," Adam Sandler isn't running away from comedies

"I do love the movies I've done in the past," Sandler told reporters. "I work hard at my

movies. But looking back at my career, when I end up having kids and I say, "Throw in that "Spanglish." 'I know I'm going to be very proud of

In "Spanglish," Sandler plays the husband of Tea Leoni, whose Mexican housekeeper (Paz Vega) finds herself in a contest of wills with the neurotically overbearing Leoni

Sandler has no illusions on whether his work in the comic drama is Oscar-worthy, although Jack Nicholson, Helen Hunt and Shirley Ma-

cLaine all received Academy Awards for movies directed by James L. Brooks, who also directed "Spanglish.

'Idol' had her doubts

Even though millions of people voted Fantasia Barrino as their "American Idol," the singer admits there was a time when she doubted America's fondness for her. "Towards the end, I didn't think I was gonna win. when

it was me and Diana [DeGarmo],

the 20-year-old said in a recent inter view Some of that skenticism crent into her psyche after fellow contestants Jennifer Hudson and La Toya London got the boot. Public discussion centered on whether voters would pick another black singer as their champion. Even Elton John chimed in that their low-vote tallies were rac-

Any concerns about her universal appeal were squashed after she won the contest earlier this year with a

1.3 million vote edge over DeGarmo. "Every nationality would come up to me and say 'I voted for you, I love you.' So I stopped thinking like that, she said

Opera in the classroom

Dawn Upshaw, one of opera's great voices, is holding more than a master class — she's giving a master course. Upshaw has joined the faculty at Bard College Conservatory of Music, located in New York state's Hudson Val-ley. As the Charles Franklin Kellog and Grace E. Ramsey Professor of the Arts and Humanities, she will be responsible for creating a program for the conservatory's vocal and vocal-dramatic programs.

"I am thrilled to have been invited to create a course of study for young singers at Bard," the soprano said in a statement. "My first experiences with new music were as an undergraduate student, and I think it is vitally important that singers and performers have the chance to create works together."

The conservatory is scheduled to open next fall, and the vocal programs are set to debut in the fall of 2006 Stories and photos from The Associated Press

An 'Idiot' is born

Demo theft leads Green Day to alter its musical approach, spawning the acclaimed 'American Idiot'

By MARK BROWN

Scripps Howard News Service The praise for Green Day's punk opera, "American Idiot," has been overwhelming and a bit insulting. The tone is: Who expected such a great album from these guysi "Oh, yeah?" drummer Tre Cool says. "Well, they can just

Let's call it a draw on all sides. The critics have been somewhat dismissive of Green Day -Cool. singer-guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong and bassist Mike Dirnt since the band brought its punk/pop sound out from the Oakland, Calif., area with

the 1994 breakthrough album "Dookie." Green Day acknowl-

edges that "American Idiot" — a political look at America that is by no means irrelevant now that the elections are over - is the most ambitious project it's ever undertaken after falling into a hit of a



Green Day members, from left, are Mike Dirnt, Billie Joe mstrong and Tre Cool

"American Idiot" happened in part because the band wasn't challenging itself. Green Day was in the studio working on the next album, which band members admit was going to be much the same as what they'd done before.

"We kind of started demo-ing stuff and were putting a bunch of songs together on tape and those songs got stolen." Cool says. No joke: the band swears that, improbably. all the tapes of all the songs it was working on disappeared from the recording studio. "It was a hectic time. We had

two studios running next to each other at the same time, a lot of people going in and out. We were pretty bummed, needless to

That frustration, however. suddenly seemed like an opportunity.

They realized the songs they'd been working on weren't anything special.

"We just kinda turned a curve when Billie wrote 'American Idiot,' and we just kept on that," Cool says. "We threw the rules out the window. He said: 'Let's just have fun. If there's anything

Tre Cool



44 We threw the rules out the window.

[Billiel said: 'Let's just have fun, If

there's anything you wanna do, do it.

If you feel like you've hit a wall, then

change gears, Make a polka, do

whatever, Make dirty Christmas

songs.' It was pretty cool.

PAGE 18 STARS AND S

Paddling moratorium

DALLAS — The Dal-las school board has voted to implement two-month moratorium on cornoral nunishment

That will allow administrators to come up with a proposal - which would still require board approval to ban paddling and provide alternatives to discipline students

Trustee Ron Price, who supports paddling, suggested the moratorium. It took the place of a recommendation to immediately ban paddling in the district.

"This gives our administration the opportunity to go back and study these issues ... and bring forth a legitimate plan," he said.

Man charged after crash

BURLINGTON — A Milton man who crashed a car at high speed and then wandered into a house and kissed a sleeping couple is facing a variety of charges.

Thomas Popke, 26, is hospital-ized at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington. The charges he's facing are unlawful trespass, operating without owner's consent and careless and negligent operation. He had not been drinking, police said. Popke is due in court Jan. 24.

Popke was driving at more than 100 mph, said Vermont State Police Trooper Brian Penders.

Popke lost control and crashed. The vehicle flipped at least twice. Popke banged his head, received a large gash, lost a tooth and cut his hand. Penders said.

Then Popke walked a mile to the home of Sandra and Reginald Robinson. The couple awoke when Popke greeted them as they slept, Sandra Robinson 66 said

"He kissed me on the cheek and said, 'Hi, Mom,' " she said, "Then he went around to the other side of the bed and kissed my husband and said. 'Hi. Dad.

Hearse driver not dead

MO KANSAS CITY — The dead driving the dead.

At least that's how the government seemed to have it in the case of Frank Jansky, a 75-year-old Kansas City man who drives a hearse part-time. Even as he lived and breathed, the Social Security Administration seemed to think he was no longer alive.

Jansky was traveling in England in September and October. He returned home in November to find his checking account mysteriously depleted and a letter from Medicare denying payment for diabetes treatment

John Garlinger, a spokesman for Social Security, said the mix-up came from New York, where Jansky had lived for decades before moving to Kansas City in 1990.

A funeral home or family member apparently mistakenly reported Jansky's death, Garlinger said."It was funny," Jansky said. "But it's not funny

Multicolored poinsettias

OR COBURG - Forget the red poinsettias. Now, you can deck the halls in purple, peach or even tie-dved

Oregon's largest producer of



poinsettias is offering the traditional Christmas plant in multiple colors

The dve is permanent. It's a mixture of ethanol and special pigment that is actually beneficial to the plant, said Sherrie Lewis, who manages the annuals department of the Johnson Brothers Greenhouse

The dyed plants cost about a dollar or two more than the nurser selection of red, white and hybridized poinsettias, and so far sales have been pretty small

"We must have sold at least 300 or so of the blue." Lewis said.

The dyed poinsettias have been popular for years in Europe, but ave been slow to catch on in the United States

Olympic medals stolen

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — A janitor was charged with stealing more than 100 Olympic medals and other memorabilia from the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

Paul Nichols Christow, 48, was charged with dealing in stolen property and grand theft over \$100,000. Police said he used his unfettered access to swipe the medals, valued at nearly \$500,000, from the museum's collection.

Christow's alleged scheme was discovered after the medals were



When cows fly... A state patrol helicopter hauls a cow off an island in southwest Georgia's Lake Blackshear.

The cow became stranded on the uninhabited island when water levels dropped and is believed to have spent three to four weeks on the island.

sold to a collector over the Internet. The collector contacted the Hall of Fame after acquiring medals won by Johnny Weissmuller, who played Tarzan in movies during the 1930s and 1940s.

Police said they traced the theft to Christow, set up a sting, and caught him on tape trying to sell more Olympic goods

Memorabilia found

DALLAS - Authorities found a card bearing Jack Ruby's fingerprints, Bonnie and Clyde autopsy photos and other police-related memorabilia during a drug raid at an apartment.

Police said they found the memorabilia in Michael Roppolo's apartment in a raid on March 24, 2003. Roppolo was convicted of drug possession in November last year and received a five-year probationary entence

He told authorities that a relative who used to work for the department gave him the materials.

Police say items related to the assassination of John F. Kennedy appear to be authentic and apparently were taken from police archives several decades ago. They are to be included in a new police headquarters museum.

Sanctuary to close

CA PACIFIC GROVE — City Manager Ross Hubbard recommended closing a sanctuary for wintering Monarch butterflies to allow removal of dangerous trees. A New York woman was killed last month when a dead pine fell on her as she strolled through the popular tourist destination. An arborist found many risky trees in the grove. The sanctuary will reonen in Anril

Gymnastics bias lawsuit

M STEVENS POINT — A male junior at Stevens Point Area Senior High has filed a court injunction against the state's high school sports association, seeking to compete on the girls gymnastics team. Junior Keith Michael Bukowski claims he's being sexually discriminated. The school doesn't have a boys gymnastics team. More than 300 students have signed a petition backing him.

Bleach assault

head wounds.

treated and released.

NEWPORT - A 68-year-old woman was in critical condition at Rhode Island Hospital after her niece allegedly attacked her with bleach.

Evangeline Henry, 44, of Middletown, was charged with felony assault for the attack on the woman. The victim, who was later determined to be Henry's aunt, was bleeding profusely from several

She also was soaked in bleach. and suffered chemical burns over a large portion of her body. Woods said that the victim was intubated and unable to speak to the police. Henry was also transported to

the hospital where she was also Henry appeared in District Court, where she posted \$2,000 surety bail.



Making rounds With his three-legged pit bull in tow, Onnie across his lawn in Kalispell, Mont.



Frozen feathers A trumpeter swan's breath is visible in the cold air at the Akron Zoo in Ohio. There are several animal exhibits that are open year-round for patrons to view in the winter.



Big givers Bob Rickmers, left, carries two bags full of toys for delivery in Jersey City, N.J. Rickmers and his fellow employees collected more than \$1,000 worth of toys for UBS investment Bank's "Toys for Tots" drive.



Sitting pretty Reflected in a mirror, Professional Lindsey Centarri styles the hair of seventh-grade student Commelos(pringer. More than 20 students from Hoyt Middle School in Des Moines, lowa, visited the institute in Ames for haircuts and nail treatments as part of the Charly for Success program.



Learning new moves
Stephanie Lum Yee and the rest of
the advanced hula of the Ke Aloha
Dance Company class learn a new
dance in Anchorage, Alaska.



SIID Set drive A motorcyclist drives through an intersection in Adelanto, Calif., as the sun sets.

Inauguration reports

CONCORD — Governor-leder John Lynchelded that his inaugural committee would file annual public financial reports, which aren't legally required. The committee is a non-profit group responsible for planning Lynch's inauguration, inaugurat balls and other formal activities. Lynch, who made ethics a campaign comerstone, said no committee funds would be used to benefit him personally.

ID cards for theft victims

OH. CLEVELAND.—The state will begin issuing identification cards for identity theft victims to show police, banks and creditors while they recover. Attorped General Im Petro says the program will help victims recoup loss more quickly and endure less scrutiny from authorities. Victims must report the theft and the authorities have to verify the crime before a card can be issued.

Tuition freeze proposed

NC CHAPEL HILL — The head of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors wants his colleagues to freeze tuition next year because he believes the state has enough money to provide a good education.

Chairman Brad Wilson made the point in a memo distributed to board members, state university chancellors and UNC system President Molly Broad. Fifteen of the state's 16 public universities increased tuition last year.

Parking meters arrest

PA PITTSBURGH — In the opening scene of the classic 1967 movie "Cool Hand Luke," Paul Newman's title character is arrested for cutting the heads off a row of parking meters.

So, when four city burglary detectives were assigned to find the person who stole at least 400 parking meters from city streets and lots over the past year, they didn't have to think long before giving their probe a name: "Operation Cool Hand Luke."

They arrested a man in the case. But unlike Newman's fictional character, whose motive was, "Small town, not much to do in the evenin!," the real-life meter suspect was after "scrap metal and the coins inside," police Detective Mike Plijyh said.

The suspect, Wade Harris, 39, who has an arrest record dating to 1983 primarily for thefts involving scrap metals, was charged with theft, receiving stolen property and criminal mischief.

Son arrested in burglary

BENNINGTON — A local teen has been charged with burglarizing his mother's second-hand clothing store, as well as the gas station where he worked and a hair salon.

Casey A. Gras, 17, is also facing charges for allegedly selling cocaine. Police said he told them he committed the robberies to sup-

port his crack addiction, according to reports.

Gras could face up to 55 years in jail if he is convicted on all six counts. He pleaded innocent to the crimes in Bennington District Court.

Police allege that Gras burglarized Eclipz Hair Salon using a rock to smash the window and taking \$179 from the cash register.

On the same night, Gras allegedly broke into Second Time Around on River Street, which is owned by his mother. In that case, a cinder block was used and \$887 was reported stolen.

New university hospital

IW LEXINGTON — University of Kentucky HealthCare of ficials amounced plans to build a new patient care facility out an earn facility out the campus that could cost an estimated \$3.75 million. University trustees unanimously approved the plan. Invould be funded from existing revenues generated by the university's hospital and a \$2.50 million bond issue financed by UK HealthCare.

School recruiting cards

CRETE — A private college raised eyebrows with a recruiting postcard that shows a man surrounded by women and says students have the opportunity to "play the field."

Doane College sent the cartoon postcard to about 13,500 prospective students in California. Based on criticism it sparked, the college announced it was discontinuing the card.

"Doane College further expresses its regret if anyone associated with the college or potential applicants were in any way offended by the postcard's content," the college said in a statement.

One frame showed a student playing footbal for the Doane Tigers, with the caption: "Finally, a place where he could work toward the career of his choice. And also play the field."

Auto theft ring arrests

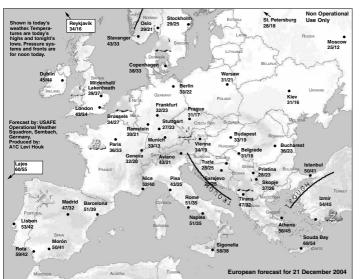
GA LAWRENCEVILLE — Authorities have arrested five people accused of being part of a large automobile theft ring thatsold stolen cars to unsuspecting Hispanics around the Southeast.

The group has been stealing cars from citizens and dealerships in the Miami and Atlanta areas, marking them with fake titles and then selling them around Georgia and the Carolinas to Hispanic customers who pay in cash, investigators said.

Once a police officer discovers the car is stolen, the car is impounded and the victims have no way to regain their money.

Authorities in Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina have recovered about 26 stolen vehicles, mainly sport utility vehicles and trucks. And they know of about 50 vehicles registered in Georgia with counterfeit Florida titles, said Pete McFarlane of the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety Auto Crime Unit.

Stories and photos from wire services



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with morn rain/snowshowers. Highs in the mid 30s Wednesday lows in the mid 20s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 30s to mid 40s, Wednesday lows in the mid 30s to mid

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with fog and isolated rain/snowshowers. Highs in the upper 20s, Wednesday lows in the mid 20s.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated snowshowers. Highs in the mid 30s to low 50s near the southern coast. Wednesday lows in the low 30s and low 40s near th

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 30s, Wednesday lows in the low 20s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the mid 20s to low 30s. Wednesday lows in the low teens to

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 30s, Wednesday lows in the upper teens

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the low to

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy with thunder-storms in the extreme southern coast. Highs in the low to upper 50s, Wednesday lows in the mid 30e

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with fog and isolated rain/snowshowers. Highs in the upper 20s to mid 30s, Wednesday lows in the lower to mid 20s

v: Mostly cloudy with rain/snowshow ers. Highs in the upper 20s to low 40s, Wednesday lows in the low 20s to low 30s

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy, Highs in the mid 40s to upper 50s, Wednesday lows in the low 30s to low 40s.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms on the west coast. Highs in the low to mid 50s, Wednesday lows in the low to

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

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North Platte	34	6 PCkby	s
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Omaha	32	2 Snow	S
Orlando	67	54 Cir	S
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Pendleton	40	27 PCkby	S
Peoria	38	15 PCkb	Si
Philadelphia	36	34 PCkby	S
Phoenix	70	44 Cir	S
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Rapid City	23	4 Cldy	To To
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Richmond	47	31 PCldy	Tic
Roanoke	43	33 PCkby	Tic
Rochester	33	29 PCkby	W
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Sacramento	61	34 Cir	W
St Louis	45	22 Cldy	W
St Thomas	85	75 PCkby	W
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Salt Lake City	32	18 PCkby	W

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Savannah	59	40 Cir	
Seattle	46	36 PCldy	
Shreveport	68	49 Cldy	
Sioux City	21	1 Snow	
Sioux Falls	17	4 Snow	
South Bend	37	17 PCM/	
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Tupelo	61	46 Cldy	
Vaco	66	40 PCldv	
Washington, D.C.	42	36 PCldv	
Vichita	43	23 Cldv	
Vichita Falls	54	31 PCldv	
Vikes-Barre	30	28 Cldv	

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Horoscope

Happy birthday to the sun! The passage of our solar daddy into the Tropic of Capricorn is one of the original reasons to party ask any sophisticated cave **Holiday Mathis** man, Roman or ancient Egyptian. The days grow longer, the nights grow shorter, and we grow more aware that if we're to get that thing done before year's end, we'd better ge husv

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 21). When

you narrow your focus to one big goal, instead of being restricted, you feel your life broadening! Use what you're learning to up your income! Passionate encounters in the new vear lead quickly to a commitment. Just be sure you're really ready! Friends have excellent tips in finan cial and romantic realms. Virgo and Pisces are love signs.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You've hoped, wished and prayed - now. it's ultimatum time. A certain situation in your life simply can't go on as it was. Take a stand, and all of the correct elements will align to support you

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You're fearless. Ferocious competition is out there to be sure but you're so convinced of your talent that nothing can stop you from winning. Tonight, you're in the mood to reconnect with friends you seldom

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your wild streak emerges to help

you out in even the most sophisticated and structured environments. Release the constraints of artificial rules. Follow nature. Sagittarius helps in your pursuit of love

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Create more space in your life, and what you want might just drop into that opening. Peaceful environments help you come up with brilliant solutions or calm your nerves long enough to see the truth.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Instead of complaining, you just fix it. Doing so earns you high character marks

in the eyes of someone who is known to promote those with outstanding qualities. It's nice to be generally well liked.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Obstacles can be overcome, not

with force but with a different kind of strength You're the sign of all things green. Think of the root that can crack concrete or the reeds that sway in the storm

LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). Pride goeth before being broke. You've got nothing to prove, so put down the wallet. Someone who wants to pay your way shouldn't be battled -

you deserve it. Taurus and Scorpio are particularly attractive to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You see clearly what should be done, but the cooperation of many is required. Listen to friends. Do not, however, lend them money now unless you're sure you can afford to

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). You'll have spurts of energy and dramatic peaks of joy. The power of your personality carries influence. Don't be enticed by extravagance, which provides only a temporary high; find a permanent solution.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). You've got the chance to paint a certain picture of your life in the mind of someone new. Count your blessings, and de-emphasize what you do not have. Tonight's mood is exceptionally romantic

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

There's no problem that can't be solved before it occurs - prevention is your motto. From car trouble to holiday planning to dealing with the in-laws, an ounce of prevention is worth well over \$100.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Your communication skills are superior. You could even pick up a few words in a new language. Seize the chance (or create your own opportunity) to make up for a wrong move in the past.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



I know that you are wishy washy. I know that you will bring me presents whither I'm good or whither I am bad.





















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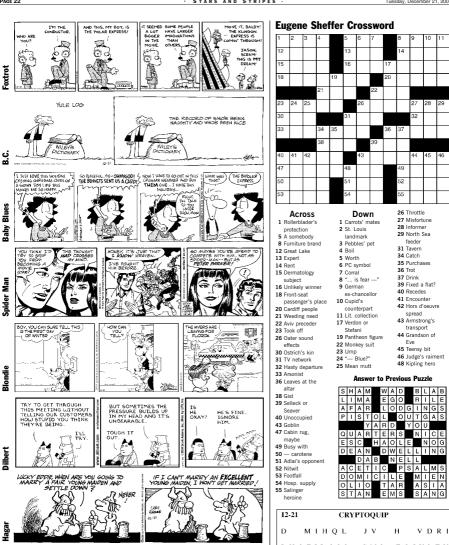












THE CHRISTMAS TREE SEEMS TO BE WISSING SOMETHING...

BHOEIRGIO C M J EOJXLTU W H D L "HTTJC A I G I

DRGQJLXBI AU WMITV!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IN ANY CHEMIST'S
LABORATORY, YOU COULD PROBABLY SAY THERE IS COMPOUND INTEREST. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals L

Brother should stand firm on loan JUB

Dear Abby: I just read the letter from "Able but Unwilling in Alabama," whose mother and sister are urging him to "lend" money to his spendthrift brother. "Able" said he and his wife had always lived frugally and have saved diligently, while his brother and his wife lived far beyond their means. You responded that if "Able" Dear Abby was comfortable with his decision, he wouldn't

have written to you He should stick to his guns. The brother and sister, in-law will be siphoning money from here to eternity. Just like an alcoholic, if you give money to folks like that they'll take and take until the money is gone. I know — I was one of those takers. I was never taught how to handle money.

- Hopefully Doing Better in Florida Dear Doing Better: I did get mail from readers who felt I should have encouraged the writer to stand firm. Read on

Dear Abby: It's time for that brother and his wife to grow up and learn to budget their own money. If "Able's" mother and sister aren't willing to put THEIR money where their mouths are, they should keep quiet. It never makes sense to loan money to a bottom-

less pit. Strange, how "Able." the responsible son, is criticized, while th spendthrift, spoiled son runs to Mom and Sis to lay guilt and put pres sure on the responsible brother. If the situation were reversed, would the big spender help his brother, I wonder?

don't think so. His selfish lifestyle should not be rewarded. The irresponsible brother should end the pity party and go to work!

- Hard- Working Mom in Providence, R.I.

Dear Hard-Working Mom: More readers agreed with you than with me

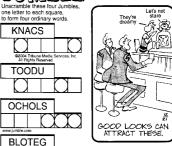
Dear Abby: The brother made his choices and is reaping the "rewards." If "Able" bails him out, it won't be a one-time thing. It will open the door to keep the money flowing. There is a children's story about the Little Red Hen. The little hen asked for help to plow the garden, plant ed and pull the weeds. The rest of the farm animals refused. However, when it came time to eat the bread, they all wanted some. Little Red Hen then said "no," because they had done

nothing to help. It's the same with saving money; we go without to build savings to cover our needs in leaner times.

- Brenda in Aurora, Colo. Dear Brenda: That's a lessor many people need to learn. Too many are living on credit and accruing a mountain of debt while trying to keep up with the Joneses.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440 aders can write Los Angeles CA 90069. Rear to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Armini



Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow) Jumbles: GAUZE PUPPY SECOND MURMUR What the family did to their home for the holi-

days - "SPRUCED" IT UP

Now arrange the circled letters to

suggested by the above cartoon.

form the surprise answer, as

Yesterday's

Don't fret over ex visiting relatives

Dear Annie: Ten years ago, I went through a bitter divorce, and now I have minimal contact with my ex-wife. My ex used many tactics to prevent me from maintaining a healthy relationship with our two (now grown) children.

I recently learned that my ex-wife spent her vacation visiting with my family members who live 2,000 miles away. She stayed in my sister's home. It obviously was not a casual drop-in. My ex has no other friends or family living in that area

I asked my sister why she was so willing to welcome this woman after all the years of grief she put me through. Sis told me the family had maintained some contact with my ex over the years and that they had a very nice visit. Apparently, Sis even invited the other family memers over for a "reunion dinner

I am very hurt and betrayed by the lack of family allegiance, yet my family feels they did



nothing wrong. They think they are being magnanimous. I think

they are being disloyal I have a new wife and a happy life now, but my ex still wears the divorce like a badge and won't let go of our past

- Tired of the Games Dear Tired: We can understand why this aggravates you, but if your family members

wish to maintain a relationship with your ex-wife, that is entirely their business. Instead of consid-ering it "disloyal," think how much your children appreciate knowing their mother can enter their aunt's home without a fight. Your ex may have been a nightmare, but the kids are grown now, and it accomplishes nothing to insist your relatives avoid her

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for six years and never had a problem until his

friend "Ralph" came along. Ralph is a nice guy, but he's a moocher. We play darts at our

house once a week, and he is one of several friends who come over. Everyone brings beer or food, except Ralph, but that doesn't stop him from drinking most of

the alcohol and soda, eating most of the food and bumming cigarettes off the smokers. These parties take a big chunk out of our wallet, and our guests contributions help defray the

My husband and I have gotten into several arguments over this. but he refuses to talk to Ralph, and he doesn't want me to say

anything, either. - Tapped Out in Virginia Dear Tapped Out: Of course not. Perhaps one of your other regular guests could mention to Ralph that everyone is expected to bring something to the party, and suggest that next time, it's his turn to bring pretzels and

chips (or whatever). Annie's Malibox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmalibox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Malibox, c/o Creators Syndi-cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Sulte 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Family Circus

Answer



"Look at this one, Mommy! Baby Jesus in a nest!"

GRAFFITI NA 19/24

Dennis the



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 - Motorcycles da Civic '93, US spec, ac
 - Sport Utility Vehicle 172

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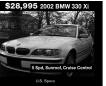
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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Tuesday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Princeton at Temple (did). AFN-Pacific, 11 a.m.—NFL: New England at Miami (did). AFN-Sports, noon—NBA: Phoenix at Denver (dld).

AFN-Sports, 3:30 p.m.—NBA: Memphis at
L.A. Lakers (dld).

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—NFL: New England at
Miami (dld).

Wednesday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball: exas Tech at lowa. AFN-Sports and Radio, 1:45 a.m.—College ootball: Champs Sports Bowl, Syracuse vs. AFN tiottall: Champs Sports Bowl, Syracuse vs. Georgia Tech. AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.—College basketball: UCLA at Michigan St. AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: Dallas at New York (did).

York (dld).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—College basketball:
Texas Tech at Iowa (dld).
AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—College basketball:
UCLA at Michigan St. (dld).
UCLA at Michigan St. (dld).
UCLA at Michigan St. (dld).
AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—College football:
Champs Sports Bowl, Syracuse vs. Georgia

All Times Central European Time; dld indi-cates delayed broadcast. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

1. Didde de seu uin un to prize y mett v. s. cent1. Didde de seu uin un to prize y mett v. s. Cen3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. s. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Kentucky (**) did not play, Neet v. S. Cit3. Cit3. Cit3. Cit3. Cit3. Cit3. Cit3. Cit3. Sunday semer's scores

Sunday's men's scores

BC-BKC-College Bkb Scores,0309 Sunday's College Basketball Scores By The Associated Press

Boston College 82, Yale 80, 20T Briar Cliff 79, Berkeley 50 Connecticut 81, Rice 72 Keystone 88, Farmingdale 68 Keystone 88, Farmingdale 68 Mosachiusett 70, Davidson 67 S. New Hampshire 98, Felician 55 St. John's 74, Marist 66 Stonehill 85, St. Michael's 81 Vermont 83, Binghamton 53 Yeshiva 74, St. Joseph's, Ll. 66 Pridoewater, Va. 74, Ferrum 52

resilva /a, S., Joseph S., L. los Bridgewater V., a 74, Fernum 52 Charlotte 64, N.C. -Asheville 52 Chavan 68, Multienberg 63 Florida 100, Georgia Southern 68 Gallaudet 66, E. Mennonite 61 Georgia 93, Wofford 89, 07 Lynn 72, Lake Superior St. 71 Webraska-Omaha 76, Rollins 76, 180 Webraska-Omaha 76, Rollins 126 S1, Nova Superior St. 71 Nova Sucheastern 65, Puerto Ricores 81

dras 81 Tennessee Tech 92, Jacksonville 74 MIDWEST

Illinois 93, Valparaiso 56 lowa St. 62, Wagner 50 Minn.-Mankato 75, Minn.-Moorhead 56 Missouri 56, Indiana 53 North Dakota 76, Dakota Weslyn 56 Notre Dame 71, Army 52

Ohio St. 74, Morehead St. 48 Quincy 66, Mercyhurst 41 SW Missouri St. 69, Miami (Ohio) 63 Saginaw Valley St. 72, Winona St. 68 Seattle Pacific 90, Cent. Missouri 80 St. Ambrose 75, Cardinal Stritch 64 St. Francis, Ind. 66, Viterbo 61 St. Xavier 68, Benedictine,Kan. 46

St. Xalver 68, Benedictins kan, 46
W. Illinois S. Illinois College 64
SOUTHWEST 70
Texas Abas 38, Schreiner 64
Texas-Ballas 83, Schreiner 64
Cal Listheran 65, FAR WEST 56
Montrans 15, FAR WEST 56
Montrans 15, FAR WEST 56
Montrans 15, FAR WEST 56
Worthard S. FAR WEST 55
St. Mary's Cal. 66, Hampton 55
St. Mary's Cal. 66, Hampton 55
St. Mary's Cal. 66, Hampton 55
Washington TOURNAMENT
Las Vegas Invitational
Second Round
E. New Mexico 7, 35, Mary's 7, Steas 41

AP Women's Top 25 fared

AP Women's Top 25 fared and a support of the suppor

Million (L. A. Ge.2) loss to Illinois 78-63. Next: at No. 10 Ohio State, ruesday. 17. Vanderbilt (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. William (2014). Next: vs. Gopin State. Monday. 19. Next: vs. Gopin State. Monday. 19. Houston (9-1) did not play. Next: at Long Beach State. Monday. 29. Purdue (6-3) did not play. Next: at Long Beach State. Monday. 20. Purdue (6-3) did not play. Next: at S. Peter's T. Useday. 21. Le-Paul (7-2) did not play. Next: at St. Peter's T. Useday.

ter's, Tuesday.
2. Rutgers (6-2) did not play, Next: vs. No.
9 Tennessee, Wednesday, Dec. 29.
23. Arizona State (7-2) did not play, Next:
vs. No. 8 Connecticut, Tuesday.
24. Lova (9-0) did not play, Next: vs. Western Illinois, Tuesday.
25. Kansas State (6-2) did not play, Next: at
Vilianova, Tuesday, Dec. 28.

Men's schedule

Monday, Dec. 20 EAST agara at St. Bonaventure

Princeton at terrisorum
Toledo vs. Middle Tennessee at Guillermo
Angulo Coliseum, Carolina, Pierto Rico
Album at Deisware at Guillermo Angulo
Album at Deisware at Guillermo Angulo
Edisware at Guillermo Angulo
Edische Carolina vs. South Carolina at the
Mitchell Center, Mobile, Ala.
El Kertucky at Savarianah St.
Fla. International at South Florida
William & Mary at UNC-Greensbor
Beimont at Tennessee
Edismont at Tennessee

William & Mary at UNC-Greensboro
Belmont at Tennessee
Georgia St, at Louislana-Lafuyette
Georgia St, at Louislana-Lafuyette
Georgia St, at Louislana-Lafuyette
Cont. McChigan at Vanderbit
Cert. McChigan at Vanderbit
Souther Miss. at South Alabama
Northwestern St. at Dayton
Louislana Tech as South Alabama
Northwestern St. at Dayton
Louislana Tech South Alabama
Northwestern St. at Dayton
Louislana Tech South Alabama
Northwestern St. at Chipton
Lafuxon St. at Cincinnatin
McMeese St. at Ark-Little Book
Lipscomb at Arkarisas
Lipscomb at Arkarisas
Arkarisas St. at San Houston St.
Arkarisas St.

FAR WEST Northwestern at Arizona S

Drake at S. Utah
Coppin St. at Utah
Weber St. at Utah Valley St.
Winthrop at Portland
Montana at San Francisco
Sacramento S. at Ut Riverside
Dartmouth at TOURNAMENTS
TOURNAMENTS
TOURNAMENTS
At Honolulu
At Honolulu
"und

Outrigger Hotels Rainbow At Honolulu First Round orgetown at Oral Roberts ng Beach St. at Hawaii Tuesday, Dec. 21 EAST

Holy Cross at Brown
Loyola Marymount at Colgate
Navy at Mount St. Mary's, Md.
Norrheastern at Stony Brook
Loyola, Md. at UMBNew Hamposhime at West Virginia
Buffalo at Penn St.
Maine at Providence
Drexel at Seton Hall
Toldro vs. Doubusen at Guilliorm
Toldro vs. Dalusen at Guilliorm

SOUTH
Toledo vs. Delaware at Guillermo Angulo
Coliseum, Carolina, Puerto Rico
Aubum vs. Middle Tennessee at Guillermo
Angulo Coliseum, Carolina, Puerto Rico
Virginia-Wise at Chattanooga
Union, Tenn. at ETSU
Jacksonville at Florida St.

union, Tenn, at TSU, superior and the superior and the superior at Marshall High Point and High Point at Marshall Troy at Alabama St. Tonas Southern at Histories St. Carolina Att at Husbard Tronas Ten's Histories at House at Bowling Green Incara Ten's Histories at Histories and Histories St. Carolina Att. P. Wayne at Bowling Green Incara Ten's Histories at Histories and Histories St. Named at Histories Attended Histories St. Named Histories St. Named Histories St. Named Histories Atlanta St. Named Histories St. Named

SOUTHWEST
LSU at Houston
NW Oklahoma at Oklahoma St.
Oregon St. at Prairie View
Md.-Eastern Shore at TCU
Occidental at UTEP

FAR WEST

Manhattan at Arizona N.C. State at BYU UMKC at Colorado E. Washington vs. Gonzaga at Spokane rena San Jose St. at Montana St.

Quinnipiac at N. Arizona Elon at Boise St. Texas St. at Colorado St Cal Baptist at CS Northr Texas SI, at Cooraus J., Cal Baptist at CS Northridge Pacific at Fresno SI. Warner Pacific at Presno SI. Warner Pacific at U.C. Irving SI. Warner Pacific at U.C. Irving SI. Warner Pacific At U.C. Irving SI. Warner SI. War

w Classic

Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. at Louisville New Orleans vs. Austin Peay

Sunday's women's scores

Army 79, Cent. Connectic Auburn 48, Syracuse 35 Delaware 68, La Salle 67 Duquesne 97, Howard 76 Georgia 96, Iona 52 Merrimack 65. Rentico cut St. 49

Duquesine 7, Howard 76 Memmark 76, Bontley 56 Februs 12, R., Old Dominion 68 Februs 12, R., Old Dominion 68 Stonelli 42, S. McHouley 57 Stonelli 42, S. McHouley 57 Coll. of Charleston 59, Casstal Carolina 54 Rainternational 66, LOT 56 Memmark 76, Lot 12, Lot 12,

BITA

Arizona 70, Chicago St. Evansville 58, Butler 52 Illinois 78, UCLA 63

Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 74, Charleston Southern

Millikin TJ, Newport New 32 d Minn-Moorhead 85, Ferris St. 74 Minn-Moorhead 85, Ferris St. 74 Notre Dame 50, Marquette 47 Notre Dame 50, Marquette 47 Ohio Gz. Cleveland St. 55 Ohio Dominican 83, Maryville, Mo. 79 St. Cloud St. 32, Minn-Crookston 73 St. Cloud St. 32, Minn-Crookston 73 W. Illinois 67, Oulney 50

72, Illinois St. 71, 01 nois 67, Quincy 50 SOUTHWEST Baylor 89, Florida 62 Lawrence 69, Texas Lutheran 61 Texas A&M 70, Northwestern St Texas-Dallas 80, Schreiner 58
FAR WEST
Concordia Calif 76

Toxas AMIT 70, Northwestern St. G.
Toxas AMIT 70, Northwestern St. G.
Toxas Charles Mark Wittimun 68
Tun in the sun Shootout Tun 100 Mark Million 100 Mark Tun 100 Mark Million 100 Mark Tun 100 Mark Tu

SMU 60, Denver 42 Thi rd Place

College football NCAA Division I-AA playoffs

Championship Friday, Dec. 17 At Finley Stadium/Davenpo Chattanooga, Tenn.

NCAA Division III playoffs

Championship Saturday, Dec. 18 Stagg Bowl At Salem Stadium Salem, Va. Linfield, Ore. 28, Mary Hardin-Baylor 21

College volleyball

NCAA Division I torunament Semifinals Thursday, Dec. 16 At Long Beach, Calif. def. Washington, 3-1 (30-25,

Stanford def. Washington, 3-1 (30-25, 23-30, 30-27, 30-24) Minnesota def. Southern California, 3-1 (30-25, 29-31, 30-26, 30-20).

Saturday, Dec. 18 At Long Beach, Calif. Stanford def. Minnesota, 3-0 (30-23, 30-27, 30-21)

Golf

Masters field

JACKSONILLE, Florida — The 87 players who have qualified and are likely to combined to the player of the 10 player of the 10 player of 10 players of 10 play

open champions (last five years): Re-oosen, Jim Furyk. sh Open champions (last five years): Hamilton, Ben Curtis, Ernie Els, David

PGA champions (last five years): Shaun licheel, Rich Beem, David Toms. Players Championship (last three years): dam Scott, Davis Love III. U.S. Amateur champion and runner-up: tyan Moore, Luke List. British Amateur champion: Stuart Wilson. U.S. Mid-Amateur champion: Austin Eaton U.S. Mid-Amateur champion: Austin Eaton

III.

Top 16 players and ties from 2004 Masters:
K.J. Choi, Sergio Garcia, Paul Casey, Chris DiMarco, Nick Price, Kirk Triplett, Padraig Harrington, Charles Howell III, Casey Witten-

ringtion, Charles Howell III, Casey Witters
Top eight players and ties from 200 US.
Open: Jeff Maggert, Shigeid Manyama, Fred
Top four players and ties from 2004 Paid
Open: Left Westwood.
Top four players and ties from 2004 Paid
Open: Lee Westwood.
Abampionsfig. Austin Leonard, Christ Billey,
money list. Stewart Clink, Shighen Arines, SalinArt Applety, Mark Hent'Dy, Roy SalinArt Applety, Mark Hent'Dy, Roys Dariner, Bot Van
Donald, Teel Purity, Ryan Palmer, Bo Van
Donald, Teel Purity, Ryan Palmer, Bo Van
Top 59 players from the final 2006 world

onaid, led Purdy, Ryan Paimer, Bo Van elf, Jesper Parnevik. Top 50 players from the final 2004 world anking: Miguel Angel Jimenez, Thomas jorn, Angel Çabrera, Ian Poulter, Peter onard, Fredrik Jacobson, Thomas Levet, avid Howell, Nick O'Hern, Joakim Haeg-David Howell, Nick O'Hern, Jos gman, Trevor Immelman. Others slots to be determined

World rankings

Vijas Singh Fia
Tijer Woods
Tijer Woods
Tijer Woods
Tijer Woods
Tijer Woods
Tenie Eis
Retief Goosen
Pill Mickeison
Sergio Garcia
Mick Weir
Bernie Eis
Sergio Garcia
Mick Weir
Bestewart Cink
J. Adam Sout
J. Adam Sout
J. Adam Sout
J. Davren Clairke
J. Davren Clairke
J. Davren Clairke
J. Davren Clairke
J. Chad Campbell
J. David Toms
Sout Verplank
Thomas Sjorn
Luke Donald
J. Luke Donald
J. Ny Hass Lay Haas Shigeki Maruyama Paul Casey Angel Cabrera Fred Couples Jerry Kelly Robert Allenby Rory Sabbatini Lan Poulter Steve Flesch Peter Lonard Mark Hensby John Daly Thomas Levet David Howell David Howell
Zach Johnson
Nick O'Hern
Chris Riley
Jonathan Kaye
Joakim Haeggman
Trevor Immelman
Rodney Pampling

Soccer

FIFA Player of the Year

ZURICH, Switzerland — List of FIFA players

f the year: 1991 – Lothar Matthaeus, Germany 1992 – Marco Van Basten, Netherlands 1993 – Roberto Baggio, Italy 1994 – Romario, Brazil 1995 – George Weah, Liberia 1996 – Ronaldo, Brazil

1996 – Ronaldo, Brazil 1997 – Ronaldo, Brazil 1998 – Zinedine Zidane, France 1999 – Rivaldo, Brazil 2001 – Luis Figo, Portuga 2001 – Luis Figo, Portuga 2002 – Ronaldo, Brazil 2003 – Zinedine Zidane, France 2004 – Ronaldinho, Brazil

Deals

Weekend transactions

BASEBALL

PHOENIX SUNS—Activated F Jackson Vro-man from the injured list. Waived G Yuta Tabuse. abuse.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CINCINATI BENGALS—Placed C Rich Brasam on injured reserve. Signed RB Quincy
When Branch Cos—Signed DT Demetrin
DENVER BRONCOS—Signed DT Demetrin

Veal.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Placed CB Ty-

TANK McNamara



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Tis the season for glut of games, points

Low-profile matchups often more entertaining than BCS counterparts

BY RALPH D. RUSSO The Associated Press

he bowl season has arrived and college football fans can expect two things: lots of games and lots of points

Nineteen of the 28 howl games will be played between Tuesday and New Year's Eve. Many of the matchups seem mundane, even

Memphis against Bowling Green? Toledo vs. Connecticut? But don't be fooled. Often the pre-New Year's Day games are ome of the most entertaining



from last year's second-tier bowl games Hawaii 54, Houston 48; Califor-nia 52, Virgin-

ia Tech 49: Miami (Ohio) 49. Louisville 28; Minnesota 31, Oregon

There are a few potential shootouts this year, too — starting Wednesday with Memphis vs. Bowling Green in GMAC Bowl

The Falcons are one of a record five Mid-American Conference teams in the postseason and rank fourth in the nation in scoring at 43.6 points per game. Memphis, making its second straight bowl appearance after a drought, averages over 35 points

Bowling Green quarterback Omar Jacobs is one of the nation's least-publicized stars. He's the country's fourth-rated passer (167.8), and has thrown for 3,637 yards and 36 touchdowns

Memphis counters with maybe the most underrated running back in the country in DeAngelo Williams. The junior is third in rushing with 166.2 yards per

game. The Hawaii Bowl on Friday could also be a fun one, with the hometown Warriors facing UAB. Timmy Chang, who holds the

NCAA career record for yards passing, and wide receiver Chad Owens, a second-team All-Ameri can, put up plenty of points and yards for Hawaii. And the Warriors defense usually allows the

UAB's Darrell Hackney, a quarterback in the mold of the Minnesota Vikings' Daunte Culpepper, and wideout Roddy White, a third-team All-American, should make a good impression on NFL

Toledo and UConn in the Motor City Bowl on Dec. 27 features two more prolific passers in the Rockets' Bruce Gradkowski and the Huskies' Don Orlovsky. They have combined for 6,590 yards and 48 touchdown passes.

"We sure don't want a shoot-UConn coach Randy Edsall

Texas Tech's Air Raid will try to keep up with a surly and very good California team in the Holiday Bowl, but for pure entertain-ment the Liberty Bowl could blow them all away.

No. 7 Louisville is No. 1 in scoring, averaging 50.3 points per game. No. 10 Boise State ranks



Navy QB Aaron Polanco, who rushed for 844 yards and 13 TDs this season, will try to lead the Midshipmen to their first bowl victory since 1996 against New Mexico in the Emerald Bowl on Dec. 30 in San Francisco.

second in that stat, at 49.7 points Liberty Bowl officials weren't

thrilled with losing Utah to the Bowl Championship Series, but got a great consolation prize in Boise State

"It's such a unique matchup." Liberty Bowl executive director Steve Ehrhart said. "We're always having to battle the bowls that have beaches and fancy new stadiums. That's why, this time, we have a terrific opportunity to showcase Memphis The picks:

Tuesday, Dec. 21 Champs Sports Bowl

Georgia Tech (minus 41/2) vs. Syracuse: No shootout here with Tech's tough defense ... GEOR-GIA TECH 22-14

Wednesday, Dec. 22 GMAC Bowl

Memphis (plus 41/2) vs. Bowling Green: Both teams looking for econd straight bowl victory ... MEMPHIS 47-43

Thursday, Dec. 23 Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl Cincinnati (minus 11/2) vs. Mar-

shall: Bearcats quarterback Gino Guidugli likely to return from in-iury ... CINCINNATI 33-28. Las Vegas Bowl

Wyoming (plus 12) vs. UCLA: Cowboys' first bowl since 1993 ... UCLA 41-17.

Friday, Dec. 24 Hawaii Rowl

UAB (plus 31/2) vs. Hawaii: War-

riors have scored 82 points in last two Hawaii Bowls ... UAB 45-38.

Monday, Dec. 27 **MPC Computers Bowl**

Fresno State (plus 51/2) vs. No. 18 Virginia: Not what the Cavaliers were hoping for ... VIRGINIA

Motor City Bowl

Toledo (minus 31/2) vs. Connecticut: Huskies go bowling for first time ... UCONN 38-37.

Tuesday, Dec. 28 Independence Bowl

Iowa State (plus 3) vs. Miami (Ohio): Cyclones are 1-6 in bowls MIAMI 29-23

Insight Bowl

Oregon State (minus 31/2) vs. Notre Dame: Irish try to snap game losing skid NOTRE DAME 22-17

Wednesday, Dec. 29 **Houston Bowl**

Texas-El Paso (plus 3) vs. Colorado: Miners coach Mike Price is 3-2 in bowl games ... COLORADO

Alamo Bowl

No. 24 Ohio State (plus 11/2) vs. Oklahoma State: Last time Buckeyes played in a bowl before Jan.
1 was 1993 ... OHIO STATE

Thursday, Dec. 30 Continental Tire Bowl

No. 25 Boston College (plus 3) vs. North Carolina: BC gets taste of life in ACC ... NORTH CAROLI NA 27-21

Emerald Bowl

New Mexico (minus 21/2) vs. Navy: Middies' last bowl victory was in 1996 ... NAVY 21-19.

Holiday Bowl No. 4 California (minus 111/2)

vs. Texas Tech: Beware angry Bears ... CAL 48-14 Silicon Valley Classic

Troy (pick) vs. Northern Illinois: Troy's first bowl; Huskies ... NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Friday, Dec. 31 Music City Bowl Alabama (minus 31/2) vs. Minne-

sota: Tide returns to postseason after two-year absence ... ALA-**RAMA 27-26** Sun Bowl

Purdue (minus 7) vs. No. 21 Ari-

zona State: Sun Devils quarterback Andrew Walter is out with an injury ... PURDUE 28-14. Liberty Bowl

No. 10 Boise State (plus 14) vs.

No. 7 Louisville: This should be more fun than Graceland ... LOU-ISVILLE 56-40

Peach Bowl

No. 14 Miami (minus 21/2) vs. No. 20 Florida: So, who exactly is coaching the Gators? ... MIAMI

Last week of regular season: 5-2 (straight); 4-9 (vs. points) Season: 194-52 (straight): 125-114-5 (vs. points).

Bowl glance

Tuesday, Dec. 14 New Orleans Bow Payout: \$750,000 Payout: \$750,000
m Mississipp 31, North Texas 10
Tuesday, Dec. 21
Champs \$ports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: \$850,000
Tech (6-5) vs. Syracuse (6-5)
Wednesday, Dec. 22
Gudble, Ala.
Payout: \$750,000
Is (8-3) vs. Bowling Green (8-3)
Thursday, Dec. 23

Memphis (5-1) vs. 500-6807 sol. 750-600 Memphis (5-2) vs. 500-6807 sol. 750-750 Memphis (5-2) vs. 500-6807 sol. 750-750 Memphis (5-2) vs. Marchald (6-5) vs. Marchald 6-5) vs. Miami (Oh Insight Bowl At Phoenix

Wednesday, Dec. 29 Houston Bowl

Houston Bowl
Payout: \$1.1 million
Paso (8-3) vs. Colorado (7-5)
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout: \$1.55 million
ate (7-4) vs. Oklahoma State

Thursday, Dec. 30 Continental Tire Bowl At Charlotte, N.C. Payout: \$750,000 College (8-3) vs. N.

Emerald Bowl
At San Francisco
Payout; \$750,000
citic (7-4) vs. Navy (9-2)
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payout; \$2 million
(10-1) vs. Texas Tech (7-4)
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
Payout; \$750,000
vs. Northern Illinois (8-3)
Friday, Dec. 31
Music City Bowl

Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn Payout: \$780,000 (6-5) vs. Minnesot: Sun Bowl At El Paso, Texas Payout: \$1.5 millio

7-4) vs. Arizona State (8-3) Liberty Bowl At Memphis, Tenn. Payout: \$1.35 million

reacti Bowi Art Atlanta 3) vs. Florida (7-4) 3sturday, Jan. 1 Cotton Bowi At Dallas Payout; \$3 million e (9-3) vs. Texas A&M (7-4) Outback Bowi At Tampa, Pla August \$2.75 million 40-21 million

At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: \$2.75 million
n (9-2) vs. Georgia (9-2)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: \$1.6 million

Capital One Bow At Orlando, Fla. ayout: \$5.187 mill

At Orlando, Fla.
Payout \$5.187 million
lowa (9-2) vs. LSU (9-2)
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calf.
Payout: \$14.5 million
Michigan (9-2) vs. Texas (10-1)
Flesta Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Payout \$11-14 million
Utah (11-0) vs. Pittsburgh (6-3)
Monday, Jan. 3

Payout: \$11-14 million
Southern Cal (12-0) vs. Oklahoma
(12-0)

Roy has a hand in victory over Wolfpack

Washington center deflects last shot by No. 12 N.C. State

The Associated Press

SEATTLE - Last week in practice with Washington's scout team, Brandon Roy was pretending to be North Carolina State standout Julius Hodge.



On Sunday, Roy defended Hodge on the decisive play, and got just enough of his finger on Hodge's final shot to help the No. 18 Huskies to a 68-64 victory over the 12th-ranked and pre-

viously unbeaten Wolfpack Will Conroy and Tre Simmons each scored 12 points and Roy returned earlier

than expected from arthroscopic knee surgery to add 10 points. This was obviously a huge game for us

going in," Huskies coach Lorenzo Roman said. "It was an even bigger game the way we won it We didn't shoot the hall well from the perimeter and we didn't make foul shots, but we found a way to win."

It didn't hurt Washington (8-1) that Roy was back in uniform.

The Huskies led 66-64, and the clock was ticking down the final seconds when Hodge went up for a short jumper that would have tied it. He slipped past Washington's Nate Robinson, leaned into Roy and launched the shot.

"I knew he was going to shoot it," Roy said. "He went up and I just kind of tipped it. I got high enough, and then it went off



Washington's Brandon Roy wins a battle for a loose ball with N.C. State's Julius Hodge

his hands and slipped out of bounds. But I the bucket. I'm not going to blame them (ofgot a piece of it."

Simmons came away with the ball before it went out of play, drew a foul and made two free throws with 0.2 seconds to seal the victory. That left the Wolfpack (8-1) looking back on a questionable no-call.

"When I watch the film. I will be able to tell you," N.C. State coach Herb Sendek said

Said Hodge: "I went straight up and I felt the little guy, Nate, get me in the body some. My shot was a little off target, but I've still got to find a way to put the ball in

ficials) on that last play.'

Hodge scored 15 points and Robinson Washington's leading scorer, was limited to seven after missing nine of 11 shots

No. 1 Illinois 93, Valparaiso 56: At Champaign, Ill., Dee Brown had 19 points and all five Illinois starters in double fig-

Brown scored five points in a 20-5 run midway through the second half that gave

the Illini (10-0) a 39-point lead over the Crusaders (2-6). The Illini, playing their first game in eight days, shot 59 percent from the field.

Dan Oppland had 16 points for the Crusaders, who shot 34 percent and committed 15 turnovers.

No. 5 North Carolina 85, Virginia Tech 51: At Blacksburg, Va., Jawad Williams and Sean May each scored 17 points and the Tar Heels gave Virginia Tech a rough welcome to Atlantic Coast Conference baskethall

The Tar Heels (8-1), who won their eighth straight, scored 17 of the last 21 points to lead 41-27 at halftime, then started the second half on a 16-5 run

Zabian Dowdell scored 21 points for Virginia Tech (5-3).

No. 11 Connecticut 81, Rice 72: At Hartford, Conn., Rashad Anderson scored 27 points and went 7-for-8 from the free throw line over the final 2 minutes for the Huskies

Josh Boone added a career-high 20 points and dominated inside with 14 rebounds for UConn (5-1), which was coming off its first loss - a 61-59 upset at Massachusetts 10 days ago.

The Huskies outrebounded the Owls 61-34 and had 31 offensive rebounds that led to 24 second-chance points Michael Harris led Rice (5-2) with 22

points and nine rebounds. No. 23 Maryland 90, Florida St. 88 (01): At College Park, Md., John Gilchrist made two free throws with 6.6 seconds left

in overtime to cap a 21-point, 13-rebound performance as the Terrapins won their Atlantic Coast Conference opener. Six players scored in double figures for

the Terrapins (6-2), who held on after having blown a 13-point lead. D.J. Strawberry had five of his 11 points in overtime Adam Waleskowski had 23 points for the

Seminoles (5-5).

Carter's former team outscores his new one

TORONTO - Lamond Murray scored 12 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter and the Toronto Raptors beat the New Jersey Nets 110-99 on Sunday, their first victo-ry since Vince Carter was traded to the Nets.

Carter wasn't at the game because Toronto's trade with New Jersey wasn't expected to be finalized until noon Monday.

The Raptors traded their big-gest star on Friday to the Nets for Eric Williams, Aaron Williams, Alonzo Mourning and two first-round draft picks. Murray, who could play more

now that Carter is gone, recorded his highest scoring game with Tor-onto. He scored 12 points as the Raptors began the fourth quarter on a 17-4 run.

Morris Peterson added 20 points for the Raptors. Richard Jefferson had 38 points for the

Knicks 94. Jazz 93: At New York, Jamal Crawford scored 11 of his 24 points in the final five minutes in New York's victory

Crawford's running floater made it 90-86 with 27 seconds left and Stephon Marbury's two free throws with 6.4 seconds remaining gave New York a four-point

Marbury had 19 points and 12 assists, Michael Sweetney scored

omas grabbed 14 of the Knick-29 rebounds as New York won at home over the Jazz for the first time in more than eight years.

Matt Harpring scored 21 for the Jazz, who dropped their seventh consecutive road game. Heat 117. Magic 107: At

Miami, Shaquille O'Neal sparked a 13-point run late in the fourth quarter and Miami won its eighth game in a row, its longest winning

streak since March 1998. The Heat trailed 103-102 with five minutes left before O'Neal helped them surge ahead.

O'Neal finished with 27 points, Eddie Jones scored 25 and Dwyane Wade added 22. Steve Francis led Orlando with

31 points. Kings 107, Hornets 71: At Sacamento, Peja Stojakovic scored 21 points, and Sacramento pulled away in the second half for a blowout victory over New Orleans, which lost for the 21st time in 23

Grizzlies 92, Clippers 82: At Los Angeles, Pau Gasol scored six of his 20 points in the final 5:05 and Jason Williams added two three-pointers down the stretch to lift Memphis.

Corey Maggette scored 22 points for the Clippers.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Southeas					
	w	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	19	7	.731	-	
Washington	13	9	.591	4	
Orlando	14	10	.583	4	
Charlotte	6	14	.300	10	
Atlanta	4	20	.167	14	
Central					
	w	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	14	10	.583	_	
Detroit	12	11	.522	11/5	
Indiana	12	11	.522	11/5	
Chicago	7	15	.318	6	
Milwaukee	6	15	.286	61/5	
Western C					
western c	ome	rei	ice		
Southwes	t Divis	ion			
	w	L	Pct	GR	
San Antonio	20	5	.800		
Dallas	16	- Q	.640	4	
Houston	11	13	.458	81/5	
Memphis		15		91/5	
New Orleans	- 2	21	.087	17	
Northwes	t Divis	ion			
	w	L	Pct	GR	
Seattle	18	5	.783		
Minnesota	15	8	.652	3	
Denver	13	11	.542	51/2	
Portland	12		.522	6	
litah	10	15	400	9	
Pacific			.430	,	
- deline	W	٠.	Det	CP	

olden State
Sunday's games
New York 94, Utah 93
Toronto 110, New Jersey 99
Miami 117, Orlando 107
Sacramento 107, New Orleans 71
Memphis 92, LA. Clippers 82
Monday's games
Utah at Philadelphia

Phoenix at Denver Memphis at L.A. Lakers Memphis at Colden State Memphis at L.A. Lakers
Washington at Golden State
Tuesday's game
Minnesota at Cleveland
New Jersey at Charlotte
Boston at Milami
Dallas at New York
Washington at Sacramento
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers
Wednesday's gam
Utah at Toronto Utah at To

New York at Boston Philadelphia at Indiana San Antonio at Orlando Dallas at Atlanta Dallas at Atlanta Chicago at Detroit Cleveland at New Jersey Portland at Milwaukee Charlotte at Houston Denver at Seattle Memphis at Golden State New Orleans at L.A. Laker

Sunday

Raptors 110, Nets 99

Nations 110, Nets 99
Nation 120, 111 136, Salbi Market 120, Salbi Market 12

10, Totals 37-69 27-27 110. New Jersey 27 22 22 22 22 22 25 27 28 27 28 27 29

Knicks 94, Jazz 93

UTAH — Boozer 6-14 7-14 19, Harpring 8-16 5-7 21, Radojevic 0-1 5-6 5, Bell 9-15 0-0 20, Lopez 1-61-23, Arroyo 3-103-39, Okur 5-72-2 13, Humphries 0-10-0 0, Giricek 0-10-0 0, Bor-chardt 1-1 0-0 2, Snyder 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 33-72

NEW YORK — K.Thomas 3-7 0-0 6, T.Thomas 5-11 1-2 12, Mohammed 3-7 2-4 8, Crawford 7-16 7-7 24, Marbury 5-12 9-9 19, Houston 4-6 0-0 10, Sweetney 5-10 3-113, Ariza 0-0 0, Williams 0-2 2-2, Z-10413 32-7 12-27 94, Utah

New York

Man Wew York

New York

New York

19 22 24 29—94

Thre, Point Goals—Utah 3-5 (Bell 2-3, Okur

1-1, Harpring 0-1), New York 6-16 (CrawYork

3-3, Houston 2-2, TTHOmas 1-3, Marbury

1-4, Harpring 1-2, Marbury

1-4, Harpring 1-2,

Heat 117. Magic 107

ORLANDO — Hill 8-14 4-4 20, Howard 0-3-7-8 7, Battle 2-6 1-15, Mobley 8-13 3-4 22, Francis 13-23 4-8 31, Turkoglu 4-11 2-2 11, Nelson 1-3 0-0 2, Kasun 2-2-0-0 4, Garrity 2-3 0-0 5, Aug-mon 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-78 21-27 107.

MIAMI — E.Jones 8-10 5-5 25, Haslem 4-7 -2 10, O'Neal 12-18 3-5 27, D.Jones 3-7 0-0 9, Vade 6-20 10-11 22, Butler 0-4 0-0 0, Doleac -2 0-0 4, Dooling 4-8 1-2 10, Laettner 4-7 2-2 0. Totals 43-83 23-27 117.

Kings 107, Hornets 71

NEW ORLEANS — Lynch 1-5 2-2 4, Frelje 1-4 1-2 3, Brown 6-11 2-2 14, Wesley 2-8 0-0 5, Har-rington 1-9 0-0 2, Dickau 5-10 3-4 14, Nalion 4-8 1-2 9, Andersen 2-6 6-8 10, Baxter 1-6 0-2 2, Smith 2-7 2-2 7, Edwards 0-3 1-2 1. Totals 25-77 18-26 71.

23, Smith 27, 22 7, Edwards 9, 31-2. I. Todal Scan Association 1, 21, 22 5, 23 5, 24

Grizzlies 92, Clippers 82

MIMPHIS - 9000; 76:0-0,6 Gasol 6-11.8-9
20, Wright 5-7:2-5 12, Miller 5-9 0-0 14, William
20, Schill 1-1,2-5 12, Miller 5-9 0-0 14, William
20, 6, Swift 1-6, 12-3, Battler 0-4 22, Humphrey 2-6, 1-4, 5, Totals 33-76 17-30-92.
Lak. CLIPPERS - Simmons 7-6 0-6, Mognation 1-2, 14, Sandor 1-1, 11, Nicama 7-6 0-6, Mognation 1-1, 11, Nicama 7-6 0-6, Mognation 1-1, 11, Nicama 7-6, 0-6, Mognation 1-1, 11, Nicama 1-1, Nicama

1-2 0-0 2. Totals 30-68 20-27 82. 13 22 24-28 Memphis Memphis 3-18-82 14-82 Three-heint Goals Memphis 5-16 (Miller 45, Williams 7-7, Posey 2-0, 14. C. (Lippers 2-9) (Simmons 1-1, Brunson 1-2, Jaric 0-2, Magnette 0-4). Fould out—Moore, Rebounds—Hemphis 50 (Gasol 8), L.A. Cilippers 31 (Jaric 6). Total fouls—Memphis 25, L.A. Cilippers 21 (Jaric 6). Total fouls—Memphis 25, L.A. Cilippers 26. A-16,297 (LISS) 25. L.A. Cilippers 26.

Former champ Spadafora pleads guilty

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Former IBF lightweight boxing champion Paul Spadafora pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and a weapons charge on Monday for shooting his girlfriend last year.

Prosecutors dropped charges of attempted homicide and reckless endangerment.

Spadafora was charged with shooting Nadine Russo in the abdomen on Oct. 26, 2003, because he was upset she had flattened two tires on his sport utility vehicle. The couple has since become engaged, and Russo did not comment when leaving court on Monday.

The two counts to which Spadafora pleaded guilty are felonies.

Aggravated assault carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years, while the weapons charge carries a maximum sentence of seven years.

Spadafora's attorney said he expected a sentence of no more than two years, not counting time served. A sentencing date will be set following a pre-sentencing hearing.

The troubled fighter was jailed earlier this month after a urine test revealed he had been using cocaine, a violation of his bond.

Sports briefs

Shortly before his fiancee was shot, he was arrested for urinating on a Pittsburgh street while intoxicated and was later convicted of disorderly conduct and publia intoxication.

Spadafora is a former International Boxing Federation lightweight champion. He gave up his IBF title in 2003 and said he was moving up to junior welterweight, where he could maintain his weight.

Lab charged with destroying cyclist Hamilton's sample

ATHENS, Greece — An Olympic doping laboratory was charged Monday with destroying a sample that belonged to gold medalist cyclist Tyler Hamilton.

Prosecutors charged "unknown perpetrators" with destroying a backup sample of the U.S. rider's blood.

After winning his event at the Athens Games, Hamilton took a doping test, and an initial sample and backup sample were kept by the lab. A test of the initial sample showed evidence of a blood transfusion, but the case against Hamilton was dropped after his backup sample was frozen, leav-

ing too few red blood cells to analyze

Hamilton tested positive again at a September race, with both samples confirming the result. He has questioned the reliability of the testing system for blood doping, which boosts endurance by raising the level of oxygen-carrying red blood cells.

Prosecutors also charged Greek weightifter Leonidas Sampanis with taking banned substances during the Olympics. Sampanis was stripped of his bronze medal in the 137-pound category after a drug test showed an abnormally high level of testosterone. He faces a single misdemeanor charge.

The prosecutors are Spyros Mouzakitis and Athena Theodoropoulou, who are involved in a number of doping cases related to the Athens Olympics. Among them is the case against Greek sprinters Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou. The two were charged last month with avoiding a drug test and faking a motrocycle accident hours later.

On Friday, Kenteris and Thanou submitted written explanations to the International Association of Athletics Federations on why they missed drug tests on the eve of the Olympics. The IAAF said it would decide by the end of the month whether the explanations were acceptable.

Dellucci, Rangers reach \$1.8M deal

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Outfielder David Dellucci agreed to terms on a two-year, \$1.8 million contract with the Texas Rangers on Sunday.

The deal, which includes up to \$700,000 in performance bonuses, is contingent on Dellucci pass-

MLB briefs ing a physical, the team said. Dellucci batted .242 with 17 homer and 61 RBIs in 107 games with

games with Texas last season. He batted 261 with 44 homers and 224 RBIs in 648 games over eight seasons with Baltimore, Arizona, the New York Yankees and Texas.

Alou not injured in car mishap

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — Free-agent outfielder Moises Alou escaped injury when his car hit a pothole and momentarily spun out of control. Alou was driving alone Saturday night in Santo Domingowhere he lives in the offseason.

"I'm grateful that everybody worries about me, but thank God I'm OK," he told The Associated Press on Sunday. "Two of the tires blew out and I had to call for help to tow it. There was not a crash or any injuries."

Alou hit 39 home runs with 106 RBIs last season with the Chicago Cubs. The Mets made Alou an offer about two weeks ago, general manager Omar Minaya told the AP on Friday after a news conference announcing a SS3 million, four-year deal with Dominican pitcher Pedro Martinez.

The left fielder has spent 13 seasons in the major leagues with five teams. He has batted .300 with 278 home runs and 1,092 RBIs with Pittsburgh, Montreal, Florida, Houston and the Cubs, winning a World Series ring with the Marlins in 1997.

The Cubs declined an \$11.5 million mutual option on Alou, and the decision to not bring him back was andly a surprise. Although Alou topped 100 RBIs for the fifth time and said he wanted to return to Chicago, the Cubs were looking for a younger and cheaper player as they remake their roster after a late-season collapse that cost them a playoff spot.

He hit .283 with 76 home runs and 258 RBIs in three seasons with the Cubs

"To go somewhere else is going to be tough," Alou said at the end of the season

Polanco, Villone accept arbitration

Second baseman Placido Polanco accepted the Philadelphia Phillies' offer of salary arbitration on Sunday night, and left-hander Ron Villone agreed to arbitrate with the Seattle Mariners.

Just three of the 41 free agents offered arbitration by their former teams on Dec. 7 accepted the offers. Roger Clemens announced last weekend at the winter meetings that he was taking



Free agent outfielder Moises Alou escaped injury when his car hit a pothole and momentarily spun out of control in Santo Domingo.

Houston's offer — but the seven-time Cy Young Award winner also said he still had not decided whether he would pitch in 2005 or retire.

Players who accept arbitration are considered to have re-signed with their former teams and no longer are free agents. Catcher Jason Varitek, short-

catcher Jason Varines, short stop Orlando Cabrera and pitcher berek Lowe rejected arbitration offers from Boston, and pitcher Orlando Hernandez and designated hitter Ruben Sierra rejected offers from the New York Yankees. Center fielder Carlos Beltran turned down the arbitration offer made by Houston. Polanco hit. 298 for the Phillies

Polanco hit. 298 for the Phillies last season with 17 homers and 55 RBIs. Villone was 8-6 with a 4.08 ERA in 10 starts and 46 relief appearances with the Mariners last season.

Baseball has another deadline Monday: It's the last day for teams to offer 2005 contracts to unsigned players on their 40-man rosters. Players not offered contracts become free agents.

Eischen, Nationals reach deal

WASHINGTON — Left-handed reliever Joey Eischen agreed Monday to a one-year, \$1.04 dollar deal with Major League Baseball's new Washington team.

Eischen is the only one of seven former Montreal Expos players eligible for arbitration expected to re-sign with the team by Monday's deadline.

Ínterim general manager Jim Bowden was deciding whether to tender offers to the other six: outfielder Brad Wilkerson, catcher Brian Schneider, first baseman Nick Johnson and pitchers Tony Armas Jr., Tomo Ohka and T.J. Tucker.

The Expos will become the Nationals if their move from Montreal to Washington overcomes a financial impasse between the league and the District of Columbia Council.

Eischen made only 21 appearances last season because of elbow injuries. He went 0-1 with a 3.93 ERA in 18¹/₃ innings.



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McCown keeps Cardinals' playoff hopes alive

BY BOB BAUM The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Josh McCown might be the quarterback Dennis Green thought he was after all.

Two starts after returning from a three-game benching, McCown put together the best performance of his young career in the Arizona Cardinals' 31-7 rout of the St Louis Rams on Sunday

From virtually the day he was hired, Green called McCown his choice as quarterback, but set him down after nine

"Josh McCown played very well," Green said, perhaps the first time he has spoken those words this season.

McCown completed 22 of 34 passes for 287 yards with no interceptions. He threw two touchdown passes to Larry Fitzgerald, and ran for two scores.

McCown said that he learned from watching on the sideline after nine games

"You're watching with a different pair of eyes," he said. "You're seeing things differently than when you are a rookie or a guy that hasn't played very much. Don't get me wrong, I didn't like it, but I tried to make it a positive experience."

That the Cardinals, at 5-9, are still in the

NFC West race is a testament to just how bad the division is.

A victory would have moved the Rams into a tie with Seattle atop the division, since St. Louis holds the tiebreaker with two wins over the Seahawks. Instead, the Rams fell to 6-8, just one game ahead of the

Cardinals.

"We didn't see this coming," Rams wide receiver Torry Holt said. "If there was any game on the schedule that we felt confident about coming in and winning, it would be Arizona."

If Arizona wins its last two, and both Seattle and St. Louis go 0-2, the Cardinals would take the division title at 7-9.

"I'm surprised that a 5-9 team is in it, but I'm not surprised that it's this team," McCown said. "We have it in us. We have the talent, we have the capability to do this, it's just a consistency thing."

With quarterback Marc Bulger out with a shoulder injury, 39-year-old Chris Chandler lasted just one quarter for the Rams before he was replaced by Jamie Martin, who saw his first regular-season action in two years. He was signed by the Rams ear-

lier this month when Bulger was injured.
"It was almost surreal," Martin said,
"being on the couch two weeks ago watching the game and now I'm playing in it. But
as things went on, guys helped me calm
down and I think we did some decent
thines."

St. Louis coach Mike Martz put much of the blame on Chandler, saying the veteran quarterback threw the ball on a run play on the first series and made other elementary mistakes.

tary mistakes.

The Rams had minus-20 yards of offense in the first quarter.

Chandler, who had six passes intercept-

ed last week, was 1-for-6 for 1 yard with an interception. He was sacked twice.

"It's tragic for this football team, for that

position to hold this whole football team hostage," Martz said, "but that's where we are."

The benching came after Chandler threw six interceptions a week earlier in a

threw six interceptions a week earlier in a loss at Carolina. Why has Chandler played so poorly?

"Guys, I just can't answer that," Martz said. "I don't know. I'm just baffled by it."

Chandler left without speaking to reporters.

The Rams' touchdown came on Leonard Little's 61-yard fumble return with 7 seconds left in the first half.

"I thought, 'Well, this might spark the team and we might get things going,' but it never did happen," Little said. "I guess that was a useless play, really."

St. Louis' only serious offensive threat ended when Holt was hit by Ifeanyi Ohalete and fumbled as he was about to cross



Arizona Cardinals' Josh McCown (12) scores a touchdown on a quarterback keeper during the first quarter Sunday.

the goal line. Ohalete recovered in the end zone for a touchback.

As Fitzgerald put it, the Cardinals "kept our foot on the pedal" the whole game, never turning conservative.

Lions fumble away chance to knock off Vikings

The Associated Press

DETROIT — When Minnesota quarterback Daunte Culpepper watched Detroit line up for a tying extra point, he remembered that the snapper had struggled earlier.

"I was just hoping something like that would happen," Culpepper said. It did

Don Muhlbach's snap bounced to holder Nick Harris, leading to a botched extra point with 8 seconds left that allowed the Vikings to beat the Lions 28-27 on Sunday.

"It must have slipped out," Muhlbach said. "I let down 52 people who played their hearts out."

The Vikings (8:6) took a high

step toward their first playoff berth in four years. Despite losing five of its previous seven games, Minnesota can win the NFC North with a victory Friday at home over Green Bay and a week later at Washington. In the awful NFC, Minnesota could even be a wild-card team without winning another game.

Culpepper, who was 25-for-35 for 404 yards, threw three TD passes and an interception. Moe williams scored the go-ahead TD on an 11-yard run with 1:37 left.

The Lions then went 80 yards to pull within a point on Joey Harrington's second touchdown pass to Roy Williams. But after Detroit's costly miscue, Randy Moss recovered the onside kick to seal the win.

The Lions (5-9) likely fell out of the postseason race with their seventh loss in eight games.

"It is a pretty emotional locker room," Detroit coach Steve Mariucci said. "And in the big picture, that's a good thing."



Nate Burleson, who had five receptions for 134 yards, caught a career-high two TDs passes.

Moss and Culpepper hooked up for the longest play of their careers, an \$2-yarder for a score, and Moss finished with four catches for 102 yards. He caught his 88th TD pass, tying Hall of Famer Don Maynard for eighth on the NFL's career list, and had his 41st 100-yard game, surpassing Cris Carter's team record.

Moss declined comment after the game.

Kevin Jones was held to 79 yards and a TD after running for more than 150 yards the previous two games.

Both Harrington and Jones played with the flu, and the much-maligned quarterback felt even worse when Detroit blew a chance to force overtime.

"I wasn't even watching," Harrington said. "I was walking back to the bench, and I heard a groan and looked up at the Jumbotron."

Jets 37, Seahawks 14: At East Rutherford, N.J., the Jets vented their frustration all week about their scoring woes.

LaMont Jordan stewed over here, and Santana Moss over there.

Then Sunday, they took their anger out on the Seattle Seahawks, with Chad Pennington throwing three touchdown passes and Curtis Martin running for two scores.

The victory kept the Jets (10-4) ahead in the AFC wild-card race while giving them a much-needed confidence boost going into next week's game against division rival New England.

Bills 33, Bengals 17: At Cincinnati, Takeo Spikes returned an interception 62 yards for a pivotal touchdown against his former team, and Buffalo turned in another dominating defensive perfor-

mance

Buffalo (8-6) bolstered its playoff chances with a solid all-around game. Jason Peters blocked a punt and recovered in the end zone for a score, and the defense turned Jon Kitna's latest comeback into a bad flashback.

Kitna, filling in for the injured Carson Palmer, threw two interceptions and fumbled a snap, dooming the Bengals (6-8) to their 14th consecutive season without a winning record — one of the longest streaks of futility in NFL history.

Spikes' second touchdown of the season put the Bills up 21-7 and on their way to a fifth straight victory. Since opening 0-4, Buffalo has won eight of 10 to climb into contention for a wild-card berth.

The Bills have scored at least 33 points while winning each of their last five games, their best such streak since 1998.

Texans 24, Bears 5: Houston allowed the fewest points in its three-year history and got four turnovers to beat the bumbling Bears.

With the temperature 9 degrees at kickoff and the wind chill 10 below zero, it was the Texans (6-8) who handled Soldier Field's frigid conditions better than the Bears.

David Carr threw a TD pass to Corey Bradford and also set up a field goal with a 69-yard toss to Jabar Gaffney. Domanick Davis scored on an 11-yard run in the fourth quarter and Charlie Anderson capped the victory by returning a fumble 60 yards for a TD with 2:37 left.

Carr was 13-for-28 for 220. The Bears (5-9) failed to score

The Bears (5-9) failed to score a touchdown for the second straight game and their bundled-up fans booed at another inept performance by the NFL's worst offense.

Chad Hutchinson, under a heavy rush all day, finished 17-for-34 for 168 yards.

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NFL scoreboard

America	n Co	nf	er	enc	ρ	
7411101100		•••	٠.		•	
	East		_			
	w	L	т	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	12	1	0	.923		
N.Y. Jets	10		0			
Buffalo	8	6		.571		
Miami		11	0	.154	213	289
	South					
y-Indianapolis	11	3		.786		
Jacksonville	8	6	0			
Houston		8				
Tennessee			0	.286	304	383
	North					
y-Pittsburgh	13	1	0	.929	323	220
Baltimore	8			.571		
Cincinnati	6	8	0	.429		
Cleveland		11	0	.214	247	366
	West					
y-San Diego	11	3	0			
Denver	8	6		.571		
Kansas City	6	8				
Oakland	5	9	0	.357	284	398

National Conference

National Conference						
	East					
	W	L	т	Pct I	PF	PA
v-Philadelphia	13	1	0	.929 3	69	202
Dallas				.357 2	56	367
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357 2	53	300
Washington	5	9	0	.357 2	09	234
	outh					
y-Atlanta	11			.786 3		
Carolina	6	8	0	.429 3	00	298
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429 3	01	374
Tampa Bay			0	.357 2	74	255
	orth					
x-Green Bay	8	6	0	.571 3	59	335
Minnesota	8			.571 3		
Chicago	5	9	0	.357 2	04	281
Detroit		9	0	.357 2	58	313
	West					
Seattle	7	7		.500 3	19	326
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429 2		
Arizona .	5	9	0	.357 2	51	291
San Francisco		12	0	.143 2	45	390
x-clinched playoff s	pot					
y-clinched division						
Saturd	ay's	jar	nes			
Pittsburgh 33, N.Y. G						
Washington 26, San Atlanta 34, Carolina	Fran	ÇIS	co.	16		

Sunday's games Houston 24, Chicago Minnesota 28, Detroi ndistion of St. Breuty 17 N. M. St. 37, Seattle 14 Kansas City 45, Denver 17 Philadelphia 12, Dallas 7 San Diego 21, Gleveland 0 New Orleans 21, Tampa Bay 17 Jacksonville 28, Green Bay 25 Osakand 49, Tennessee 25 Indianapoles Monday's game New England 44 Manij Green Bay 4t Minnesotta, 3 p.m. Osakand 48, Saturday, Dec. 25 Denver 31 Tennessee 25 Denver 45 Denver 45 Denver 51 Denver 51

penver at Tennessee '
Sunday, Dec. 26
Chicago at Detroit
San Diego at Indianapolis
Baltimore at Pittsburgh
Houston at Jacksonville
Atlanta at New Orleans
N.Y. Glants at Cincinnati Buffalo at San Francisc New England at N.Y. Je Arizona at Seattle

Washington at Dallas Carolina at Tampa Bay Cleveland at Miami Cleveland at Miami Monday, Dec. 27 Philadelphia at St. Louis

Sunday Texans 24. Bears 5

Houston Chicago		ō		0 17-24 2 3-5
	ond Qua			
Hou-Bradford 37	pass fro	m C	arr	(K.Brown
kick), :27.				

Chi-Safety, Carr intentional grounding,

Chi–FG Edinger 43, 1408.
Hou–FG KBrown 20, 11:37.
Hou–Davis 11:un (KBrown kick), 423.
Hou–Anderson 60 fumble recove (KBrown kick), 2:37.

Hou 15 314 34-106 Chi 11 203 26-54 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-vards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Return 208 149 5-44 3-3 2-23 6-107 2-43 0-0 13-28-0 17-35-2 2-12 2-19 Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost

Play the



WIN CASH!

Mondays in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com

Punts	7-30.7	7-42.1		
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	5-2		
Penalties-Yards	10-89	5-50		
Time of Possession	31:34	28:26		
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS				
Rushing-Houston, Davis	25-95, Ci	arr 6-8,		
Wells 3-3. Chicago, Jones				
6-21, Hutchinson 3-0, Berrian	n 2-(minu:	5 7).		
Dassing_Houston Carr 13	-28-0-220	Chica.		

Passing - Houston, Carr 13-28-0-220, Chica-go, Hutchinson 17-34-1-88, Edinger 0-1-10, Receiving - Houston, Gaffney 4-109, Davis 4-22, Bradford 3-58, Johnson 2-31. Chicago, Jones 7-37, Terrell 3-41, Wade 2-23, Thomas 1-19, Gage 1-18, Clark 1-14, Berrian 1-9, McKle 1-7. Missed field goals—Houston, K.Brown 42 (WR). Chicago, Edinger 39 (WL).

Vikings 28, Lions 27

7 7 0 14-28 3 10 0 14-27 First Quarter on 32, 8:34. Minnesota Detroit Det-FG Hanson

Det—FG Hanson 32, 8:34.
Min—Burleson 36 pass from Culpepper (Andersen kick), 1:58.
Second Quarter
Min—Moss 82 pass from Culpepper (Andersen kick), 9:53.

sen kick), 9:53.

Det—Jones Is run (Hanson kick), 3:21.

Det—FG Hanson 23, :30.

Fourth Quarter
Min—Burleson 37 pass from Culpepper
Andersen kick), 8:44.

Det—R. Williams 9 pass from Harrington
(Karlinton), 6:14.

Streets pass from Harrington), 6:11. Min-M.Williams 11 run (Andersen kick),

Det—R.Williams 1 pass from Harrington (kick failed), :08.

A-62.337.						
	Min	Det				
First downs	21	24				
Total Net Yards	461	463				
Rushes-vards	23-91	25-113				
Passing	370	350				
Punt Returns	3-27					
Kickoff Returns	5-94	4-83				
Interceptions Ret.	2-14					
Comp-Att-Int	25-35-1	25-44-2				
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-34	2-11				
Punts	5-40.6	3-45.0				
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1				
Penalties-Yards	9-70					
Time of Possession	30:27	29:33				

ume of Possession — \$77 2 - 253

**MONTONIAL STATSTICS

**Rushing—Admessota, Bennett | 15-11,
**Cultogreef #-25, Mayllams 2-12, Smith | 25-12,
**Cultogreef #-25, Mayllams 2-12, Smith | 25-12,
**Cultogreef #-25, Mayllams 2-13, Smith | 25-12,
**Smith | 25-12,
**S

Jets 37, Seahawks 14 7 7 0 0-14 3 21 6 7-37

N.Y.-Jets Fries Quarter
First Quarter
NYJ-F6 Bries 21, 554.
NYJ-F6 Bries 21, 554.
Second Quarter
NYJ-March In millions kick, 1457.
NYJ-March In millions kick, 1457.
NYJ-Mois 32 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 1457.
NYJ-Mois 32 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 126.
ABT Own Nick), 32. pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 32. pa

Fourth Quarter areins 5 pass from Pennington NYJ-McCareins 5 p. (Brien kick), 8:14.

	Sea	NY		
First downs	19	27		
Total Net Yards	275	482		
Rushes-yards	23-88	41-229		
Passing	187	253		
Punt Returns	0-0	1-8		
Kickoff Returns	7-131	3-50		
Interceptions Re		1-7		
Comp-Att-Int		18-24-0		
Sacked-Yards Lo		0-0		
Punts	3-36.0	0.0.0		
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	1-0		
Penalties-Yards	2-20	2-15		
Time of Possess		35:26		
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS				

Rushing - Seattle, Alexander 19-77, Mori 1-6, Strong 2-5, Hasselbeck 1-0, N.Y. Jets, Ma tin 24-134, Jordan 15-84, Moss 1-12, Pennin ton 1-(minus 1). Passing—Seattle, Hasselbeck 22-30-1-201, Differ 0-2-0-0. N.Y. Jets, Pennington 8-24-0-253.

18-24-0-253. Receiving—Seattle, Jackson 4-45, Milli 4-43, Receiving—Seattle, Jackson 4-19, Rice 3-25, Hannam 1-17, Strong 1-7, Stevens 1-6, N.Y. Jets, Sowell 5-83, MoSS 5-79, McCareins 3-40, Jordan 2-18, Baker 1-17, Cotchery 1-15, Askew 1-1

Missed field goal—N.Y. Jets, Brien 30 (WL). Chiefs 45, Broncos 17

Denver Kansas City 7 3 0 7-17 14 14 7 10-45 KC-Hall 97 kickoff return (Tynes kick), 14:47. KC-LJohnson 5 run (Tynes kick), 4:49. Den-Smith 22 pass from Plummer (Elam kick), :02.

second Quarter
KC-Kennison 7 pass from Green (Tynes hnson 32 run (Tynes kick), 4:06.

KICH_Johnson 32 run (Tynes kick), 4:06. Den—FG Elam 27, :04. Third Quarter KC—Parker 48 pass from Green (Tynes kick), 8:11.

Fourth Quarter -Kennison 18 pass from Green (Tynes

Den—Hearst 4 run (Elam Kick), 4:13.				
A-77,702.				
	Der	KC.		
First downs	24	22		
Total Net Yards	402	410		
Rushes-yards	20-132	36-162		
Passing	270	248		
Punt Returns	1-0	2-30		
Kickoff Returns	8-155			
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-23		
Comp-Att-Int	23-41-2	17-23-0		
Sacked-Yards Lost	6-22	3-18		
Punts	4-38.5	4-32.8		
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-0		
Penalties-Yards	10-100	6-58		
Time of Possession	26:49	33:11		
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS				

Rushing—Denver, Bell 9-50, Plummer 2-29, oughns 4-27, Hearst 5-26. Kansas City, ohnson 30-151, Hall 1-6, Collins 1-4, Easy Passing—Denver, Plummer 23-41-2-292.
 Ansas City, Green 16-19-0-224, Collins

1-4-0-42. Receiving—Denver, Smith 6-75, Luke 5-40, Lelie 3-37, Putzier 3-30, Droughns 2-14, Bell 1-58, Hearst 1-15, Watts 1-14, Carswell 1-9, Kansas City, Kennison 7-101, Parker 3-84, Gonzalez 3-44, Hall 2-17, Richardson 1-11, nn 1-9. Missed field goals—None.

Bills 33. Bengals 17

Buffalo 14 13 0 6-33 Cincinnati 7 3 0 7-17 First Ouarter

First Quarter
Cin—R.Johnson 3 run (Graham kick), 4.48.
Buf—Evans 5 pass from Bledsoe (Lindell kick), 4:07.
Buf—Peters blocked punt recovery in end zone (Lindell kick), 3:37.
Buf—Spikos 62 interception return (Lindell kick)

801—301 Spines Sc Interception return (Linden 101—102 Anham 24, 653. 801—16 Lindell 23, 113. 801—16 Lindell 29, 100. Fourth Quarter 801—16 Lindell 21, 12:58. 801—16 Lindell 33, 5:31. 101—56 Lindell 33, 5:31. 101—56 Lindell 33, 5:31. 801—16 Lindell 34, 8:30. 801—16 Lin

Buf Cin 13 16 212 275 29-43 31-149 169 126 4-4 4-21 4-81 6-109 2-65 0-0 15-30-0 16-32-2 2-14 3-25 5-45.0 6-34.0 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. miterceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost Punts Punts Fumbles-Lost 5-1 4-37 28:57 3-2

Fumbles-Lost 5-1 3-2
Penalties-Yards 5-1 4-37 7-62
Time of Possession 28:57 31:03
NBOYIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing-Buffalo, Swilliams 14-30, McGahee 11-25, Betosope 2-13, Moorman 1-(minus
11), Evans 1-(minus 14). Cincinnati,
RJohnson 23-130, Watson 3-9, Kitna 4-8,
CJohnson 23-130, Watson 3-9, Kitna 4-8,

C.Johnson 1-2.
Passing-Buffalo, Bledsoe 15-30-0-183. Cin-cinnati, Kitra 16-32-2-151.
Recebving-Buffalo, Evans 5-101, Moulds 5-47, I.Reed 2-24, McGahee 2-1, S.Williams 1-10. Cincinnati, Washington 4-60, Housh-mandzadeh 4-43, Schobel 3-20, Kelly 3-18, C.Johnson 2-10.
Missed field goals—None.

Raiders 40. Titans 35

7 14 0 14-35 14 7 14 5-40

Oak—T.Johnson 18 pass from Collins (Jani-kowski kick), 9:12. Ten—Bennett 17 pass from Volek (Ander-son kick), 3:08. Oak—Porter 32 pass from Collins (Jani-kowski kick), 1:04.

Second Quarter
Ten—Bennett 23 pass from Volek (Anderson kick), 8:42. Horn Volek (Ander-Oak-Porter 18 pass from Collins (Janikowski kick), 1:55. Ten—Troupe 7 pass from Volek (Anderson kick), 1:29.

Oak—Gabriel 45 pass from Collins (Janikowski kick), 7:28.
Oak—Oak—Orter 3 pass from Collins (Janikowski kick), 4:30.

ki kick), 4:30.

Fourth Quarter
Ten—Mason 3 pass from Volek (Anderson kick), 11:53.
Oak—FG Janikowski 42, 3:39.
Ten—Volek 1 run (Anderson kick), 1:21.
Oak—Safety, Volek intentional grounding penalty in end zone, :08.
A—44,299.

Ten Oak

Ten 0ak
31 20
527 415:
19-61 22-57
466 358
4-37 1-2
5-152 5-70
1-0 1-45
40-61-1 21-37-1
3-26 2-13
4-41.3 6-50.0
1-1 0-0
5-35 5-39
35:03 24:57 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost Purmoires-Lost
Penalties-Yards
Time of Possession 35:03 24:57

MDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Tennessee, A.Smith 16-45, Fleming 2-15, Volek 1-1, Oakland, Crockett 8-27, Fargas 7-17, Collins 4-10, Zereoue 1-4, Red-

Fargas 7-17, Collins 4-10, Zereoue 1-4, Red-mond 2-(minus 1).

Passing—Tennessee, Volek 40-60-1-492, Hentrich 0-1-0-0. Oakland, Collins 21-37-1-371.

Receiving—Tennessee, Bennett 13-160,

Mason 9-121, Troupe 6-75, A.Smith 4-38, Ber-lin 3-69, Fleming 2-21, Meier 2-2, Holcombe 1-6. Oakland, Porter 8-148, TJohnson 3-49, Whitted 2-61, Gabriel 2-52, Zereoue 2-11, Far-gas 1-21, Hetherington 1-14, Crockett 1-11, Iolley 1-4

gas 1-21, Jolley 1-4. Missed field goal—Tennessee, Anderson 41 (WR).

Eagles 12. Cowboys 7 0 7 0 0-7 0 6 0 6-12

Dallas Philadelphia Second Quarter Second Quarter
Phi—C.Lewis 2 pass from McNabb (kick failed), 10:07.
Dal—K.Johnson 7 pass from Testaverde (Cundiff kick), 3:22. Fourth Quarter
Phi—Levens 2 run (pass failed), 1:57.

Dal Phi 14 24 237 328 First downs Total Net Yards Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-int Sacked-Yards Lost 26-80 28-120 157 208 1-11 3-35 1-11 3-35 3-55 2-44 2-33 2-12 16-28-2 20-35-2 3-19 2-15 6-39.0 5-38.4 1-0 1-1 6-35 5-36 29:28 30:32 Punts Fumbles-Lost

McNabb 4-29

McNabb 4-29.

Passing-Dallas, Testaverde 16-28-2-176.
Philadelphia, McNabb 20-35-2-221.
Receiving-Dalls, Witten 6-66, KJohnson 20-28, Morgan 2-19, Anderson 1-9, Philadelphia, Westprock 8-78, LSmith 4-11, Piniston 2-34, Ovens 2-24, CLewis 2-20, Levens 1-17, Parry 1-9, Missed field goal—Dallas, Cundiff 46 (WL).

Chargers 21, Browns 0 San Diego 7 7 7 0-21 Cleveland 0 0 0 0-0

First Quarter in 1 run (Kaeding kick), 2:09. SD—Tomlinson 1 run (Kaeding kick), 2:09.

Second Quarter
SD—Gates 72 pass from Brees (Kaeding kick), 2:11.

Third Quarter SD—Tomlinson 1 run (Kaeding kick), 8:32.

A-72.489 \$D Cle 16 11 257 231 50-174 29-126 83 105 1-0 2-45 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Return 1-0 2-45 0-0 4-56 1-0 0-0 4-6-0 11-28-1 1-2 1-3 6-38.8 5-35.2 Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost

Punts r-mhles-Lost Fumbles-Lost 1-1 0-0
Penalties-Yards 1-8 7-55
Time of Possession 1-8 7-55
Time of Possession 3-55 26:09
Rushing—San Diego, Tomilinson 26-111,
Chatman 14-48, Neal 4-16, Brees 6-(minus 1).
Cleveland, Suggs 21-105, Green 5-17, McCovn 1-4, Northcutt 2-0.

Cown 1-4, Northfutt 2-0.
Passing—San Diego, Brees 4-6-0-85. Cleveland, McCown 11-27-1-108, Echemanu 1-0-0.
Control of the Community of the Com

Cardinals 31, Rams 7

St. Louis 0 7 0 0-7 10 7 7 7-31

Arizona 0 7 0 0 - 7
First Quarter
Ari-McCown I run (Rackers kick), 5:24.
Ari-FG Rackers 48, 1:34.
Second Quarter
Ari-Fitograf 8 pass from McCown (Rackers kick), 1:23.
St.—Little 51 fumble recovery (Wilkins kick), 3:73.

Third Quarter
Ari—Fitzgerald 4 pass from McCown (Rackers kick), 7:02.

Fourth Quarter
Ari—McCown 9 run (Rackers kick), 10:54.

A-40,070. StL 12

First downs
Total Net Yards
Rushes-yards
Passing
Punt Returns
Kickoff Returns
Interceptions Ret. 185 400 10-22 40-131 163 271 5-28 5-21 4-86 2-33 0-0 1-0 17-37-1 22-34-0 4-26 2-16 Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost 9-44.9 6-50.2 4-1 2-1 Punts Fumbles-Lost

Fumbles-Lost 4-1 2-1
Penalties-Yards 9-74 7-67
Time of Possession 22:31 37:29
Rushing-St. Louis, M. Faulk 10-22, Arizona,
Esmith 19-71, McCown 9-33, Scobey 9-23,
D. Anderson 1-2, Ayanhadejo 2-2
Passing-St. Louis, Martin 16-31-0-188,
Passing-St. Louis, Martin 16-31-0-188,
22-34-0-387.
Receiving-St. Louis, Martin 6-31-0-88,
Receiving-St. Louis, Martin 6-31-0-88,
Receiving-St. Louis, Martin 6-31-0-88,
Receiving-St. Louis, Moltanger 9-8, Rurus 4-37,
Receiving-St. Louis, Martin 8-8, Rurus 4-37,
Receiving-St. Louis, Moltanger 9-8, Rurus 4-37,
Rurus 4-38, Rur

22-34-0-287.

Receiving—St. Louis, Holt 6-95, Bruce 4-37,
Cleeland 2-16, McDonald 2-14, M.Faulk 1-13,
Manumaleuna 1-10, Curtis 1-4. Arizona, Boldin 4-48, Ayanbadejo 4-45, Fitzgerald 4-37,
B.Johnson 3-69, Scobey 3-52, E.Smith 2-24, ones 2-12. Missed field goals—None.

Saints 21, Buccaneers 17 7 0 0 14-21 7 0 7 3-17 First Quarter NO-Stecker 98 kick return (Carnev kick).

14:40. TB-Galloway 3 pass from Griese (Taylor kick), 11:25. Third Quarter

Third Quarter TB—Galloway 59 punt return (Taylor kick), 8:57.

6:57.

Fourth Quarter
TB-FG Taylor 37, 1:117.
NB-Horn 4 pass from A.Brooks (Carney kilo).
Stallworth 7 pass from A.Brooks (Carney kilo).
ND-Stallworth 7 pass from A.Brooks (Carney kilo).
Stallworth 7 pass from A.Brooks (Carney kilo).

A - 6.075. NO 11 Total Net Yards and Sandhary American Sandhard Sa NO TB 15 17 247 283 29-115 34-169 132 114 1-53 2-59 4-148 3-61 1-0 0-0

Jaguars 28, Packers 25

Jacksonville 7 7 7 7-28 Green Bay 0 10 7 8-25 Jac – J. Smith 31 pass from Leftwich (Scobee kick), 12:56.

GB-FG Longwell 35, 13:35.
GB-Sharper 15 fumble return (Longwell kick), 4:44.
Jac – J. Smith 15 c – .

kick), 4:44. Jac – J.Smith 16 pass from Leftwich (Scobee kick), 2:28. Third Quarter GB – Driver 32 pass from Favre (Longwell

GB—Driver 32 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 11:44. Jac—Taylor 37 run (Scobee kick), 10:15. Fourth Quarter Jac—G.Jones 1 run (Scobee kick), 9:49. GB—Chatman 7 pass from Favre (Driver pass from Favre), 1:08.

First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards 19 26 312 444 36-197 21-94 Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost 2-20 5-69 3-0 9-20-0 30-44-3 1-6 2-17 7-36.6 3-38.0

Sackied Avarls Lost 1-6 2-317 profit less 1-

Colts 20, Ravens 10

ndianapolis First Quarter 1 3 14 8 – 20 14 8 –

Bal Ind 19 17 354 316 29-160 24-67 194 249 3-27 1-14 5-129 2-51 First downs Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns

Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost 0-0 2-103 19-40-2 20-33-0 2-16 0-0 5-39.0 6-48.7 1-0 1-0 7-35 5-28 31:22 28:38 Sackied Avards Lost 5.28, 6-60
Purities 1-051
Purit

Victory overshadowed by Owens' ankle injury

First MRI inconclusive and more tests planned; Reid expects star receiver will sit next Monday

The Associated Press

- Terrell Owens brought a lot of fun, big plays and controversy in his first season in Philadelphia With an ankle injury, he also has added

some uncertainty. The star receiver could miss at least one game after spraining his right ankle in the Eagles' 12-7 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday that gave Philadelphia home-field ad

vantage throughout the playoffs. "There's a pretty good chance he won't be out there," coach Andy Reid said. "The positive is, it's not broken. The negative is, it did swell up. There's a pretty good chance he won't be there for sure this week. We'll see

about the following week." Owens was hurt early in the third quarter when he was dragged down from behind by Roy Williams on a 20-yard reception. Owens immediately grabbed the back of his leg, but

left the field on his own power. Owens, who has 77 catches for 1,196 yards and a team-record 14 touchdowns, hobbled around on the sideline, then needed help to make it into the locker room. X-rays on the ankle were negative, and an MRI on Monday was inconclusive. More tests were scheduled

The Eagles play next Monday night at St. Louis and finish the season on Jan. 2 at home against Cincinnati. Philadelphia will open the playoffs Jan. 15 or 16.

'No doubt in my mind. He will be back," quarterback Donovan McNabb said

Other than the injury, it was business as usual for the Eagles

The Eagles (13-1) set a franchise record for

regular-season victories. They've finished first in the conference three straight years but couldn't take advantage of playing at home in the last two NFC championship games, losing to Tampa Bay and Carolina. The Eagles also lost in the NFC title game in

2002, at St. Louis. The Eagles also won all six games this year against NFC East teams, sweeping New York, Washington and Dallas for the first time in

"I'm a little bit of a historian about the league and any time you can sweep the divi-sion — especially the NFC East — I think it speaks highly of the way the ballclub is put together." linebacker Ike Reese said.

McNabb threw for 223 yards and one TD with two interceptions and used his legs to help the Eagles score on their winning drive. After Dallas' Billy Cundiff missed a 46-yard field goal with 6:03 left, the Eagles got the ball at their 36 and McNabb took over. He complet-

ed a 13-yard pass to L.J. Smith and ran for 12 and 19 yards - his first carries of the game On third-and-9 from the Cowboys 19, Mc-Nabb threw 11 vards to Brian Westbrook. Dorsey Levens ran 6 yards on the next play, setting up his 2-yard touchdown run for a 12-7

"I just took it upon myself to pick up yards when I can," McNabb said. "A lot of guys came up to me during that drive and said. 'Do what you do.

Dallas' Vinny Testaverde also had two passes intercepted, one by Lito Sheppard on the Cowboys' final possession. Keyshawn Johnson had a TD catch for Dallas (5-9).

"We'll see if we can't come back and try to finish a little stronger," Cowboys coach Bill



pass intended for Philadelphia's Terrell Owens (81) during the first quarter of Sunday's game.

The Eagles beat the Cowboys 49-21 in a Monday night game last month. But Dallas kent this one close

The Cowboys started their only scoring drive at Philadelphia's 23 in the second quarter and Testaverde finished it, connecting with Johnson for a 7-yard TD for a 7-6 lead.

McNabb found Chad Lewis in the corner of the end zone for a 2-yard TD pass that made it 6-0 in the second quarter. David Akers' extra point was blocked by Kurt Vollers, ending Akers' club-record string of 153 successful con-

31/2 of the takedowns.

Hungry QBs Collins and Volek carve up records

BY GREG BEACHAM The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. - Both defensive secondaries were riddled with injuries. Both quarterbacks were hungry to prove they're as good as the recent MVPs they

backed up earlier in the year. So, not too surprisingly, the Oakland Raiders' 40-35 victory over the Tennessee Titans on Sunday was a showcase for Kerry Collins and Billy Volek, with records falling nearly as frequently as the befuddled defensive backs.

Collins passed for a sea-son-high 371 yards and threw a career-best five touchdown passes, three to Jerry Porter. Volek merely had the second-best day in franchise history, going 40-for-60 for 492 yards and four touchdowns and rushing for a

When the scoring drives finally abated and Oakland hung on with a late safety. Tennessee linebacker Keith Bulluck voiced the shame and frustration also felt by the Raiders' defense after two former backup quarterbacks carved them up.

"A lot of my teammates are out," Bulluck said. "The guys that are in there are playing, but the game is just moving too fast for them. Our offense is scoring 30-plus (points), and we can't even stop the sink from running.

It's very frustrating."

Drew Bennett, Volek's close friend, was the biggest beneficiary of Volek's prolific day with a franchise-record 13 recentions for 160 yards and two TDs. Porter was no less impressive, with ca reer highs of eight catches and 148 yards.

Tennessee's Derrick Mason caught the game's ninth touch-down pass on the first play of the fourth quarter. The clubs combined for 942 yards and countless big plays, including six scoring

passes of at least 17 yards.

"It was rough out there for a while," Oakland cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha said. "I wasn't sure we were going to win

until we started shaking hands after the game." Oakland's special teams and de-

fense finally came through.

Trailing 35-28, the Titans faked a field goal with 5:53 left, but holder Craig Hentrich's pass to Shad Meier was incomplete between

two defenders at the goal line. After Oakland added a field oal and Volek scored on a 1-yard dive in the waning minutes, Volek was called for intentional grounding in the end zone with 8 seconds

left, resulting in a safety. "We're moving the ball down the field," Volek said. "The wide receivers are doing a great job.

The offensive line was doing a great job. We just didn't score enough points." Oakland (5-9) snapped

four-game home losing streak with a resurgent effort by a once-stagnant offense, while the Titans (4-10) lost their fourth straight.

Go-for-broke Saints stay in playoff hunt

By FRED GOODALL The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. - With their hopes of staying in playoff contention on the line, the New Orleans Saints wanted no part of over-

"It was all touchdown, no field goal " Donte' Stallworth said after catching a last-minute, 7-yard TD pass from Aaron Brooks to beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 21-17 on Sunday and keep alive the Saints' postseason prospects

"We've got a ways to go," coach Jim Haslett said. "But it was a great team effort from the standpoint we hung in there.' Brooks threw two touchdown

passes in the last 4 minutes, including the decisive one with 32 seconds left, as the Saints (6-8) came from behind to win on the road for the second straight week.

The victory lifted them into a tie with Carolina and St. Louis for the last wild-card spot in the weak NFC with two games to go.

The Saints face NFC South champion Atlanta at home next Sunday before finishing the regular season at Carolina.

Two weeks ago, New Orleans

was on a three-game losing streak that fueled speculation about Haslett's job security. After overcoming 10-point deficits to beat Dallas and the Bucs, there's suddenly hope for what mostly has been a disappointing year.

"We've still got life," punt returner Michael Lewis said. "Just like coach said, it was going to come down to the fourth quarter. We just had to stand there and keep plugging away."

The Bucs (5-9) also entered the weekend as one of many teams in playoff contention, despite being three games under .500. Losing made them the first team to follow a Super Bowl victory with losing records the next two seasons

"The fact is, we're just not good enough to get it done," Bucs cornerback Ronde Barber said.

"The guys played hard. That's not the issue. We played bad, that's the issue, and we do it every week. We're about as undeserving a team as there is You can put smoke and mirrors around it all you want. This team just finds ways to lose, man.

Lewis returned a punt 53 yards to the Tampa Bay 4 to set up Brooks' 4-vard TD pass to Joe Horn that trimmed a 10-point deficit to 17-14 with 3:33 to go. After John Carney's kickoff sailed out of bounds, giving the Bucs the ball at their 40, defensive end Will Smith forced Michael Pittman's fumble on first down and the Saints' Fakhir Brown recovered at the 41.

Eight plays later, Brooks threw to Stallworth, who squeezed be-tween Barber and Dexter Jackson to just get into the end zone.

"It was a great throw, a perfect throw. I just had to catch it," Stallworth said

The quick turnaround ruined an outstanding performance by Tampa Bay's Joey Galloway, who scored on a 3-vard reception and 59-yard punt return to build a 14-7 lead. Jay Taylor's field goal made it 17-7 with just over 11 minutes to go

Penalties, turnovers and mental mistakes have undermined the Saints all season, and nearly did them in again.

Carney missed a 38-yard field goal, and another scoring opportunity was wasted when Jerome Pathon fumbled after a 15-yard reception to the Bucs 3

Brooks, who scrambled for 13 yards on fourth-and-12 from the

Tamna Ray 43 to keen the winning drive alive, finished 14-of-21 for 169 yards. He threw no intercentions, but was sacked seven times, with Simeon Rice getting

"It was just a situation where we make that play or we go home with a loss," Brooks said of the fourth-down run

On the opening kickoff, the Saints' Aaron Stecker slipped and let the ball roll through his legs but then picked it up and ran 98 yards for a touchdown. Brian Griese completed 13 of

22 passes for 118 yards for Tampa Bay, which lost two fumbles in addition to an end-zone interception. The Saints were limited to 64

yards in the opening half, yet went into the locker room tied 7-7 thanks to Stecker, who played four seasons in Tampa before signing with New Orleans as a free agent last winter 'I looked up and all I could see

was a sea of red. My instincts took over," said Stecker, who was taken to the locker room after his

'They said I hyperventilated, he explained. "I had never been so excited before the game. It all got to me



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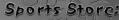
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Furniture Store and Fourseasons will also remain open and have sales till midnight as well!

Packers lose to Jags but aren't left out in the cold

BY ARNIE STAPLETON The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. - As expected, the icy weather was a breeze for one team and a 31/2-hour ordeal for the other.

Only, it was the warm-weather Jacksonville Jaguars who looked right at home Sunday in their 28-25 victory over the stunned Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field where the temperature was in the single digits and the wind chill well below zero.

Jimmy Smith caught two touchdown passes from Byron Leftwich, Fred Taylor rushed for 165 yards and a score, and Rashean Mathis picked off Brett Favre twice, helping the Jaguars (8-6) stay in the thick of the AFC playoff race.

Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio said there was no way to prepare his team physically for the chill, but "we were ready for the cold mentally, and we did not let the elements dictate how we played."

The Packers did, turning the hall over four times inside the Jacksonville 23 and missing a field goal after reaching the 13

Nevertheless, the Packers (8-6) became the ninth team in NFL history to reach the playoffs after a 1-4 start. They clinched before kickoff because Chicago, Dallas, Carolina and New York all lost in the run-of-the-mill NFC

"I'll take your word for it." Packers tackle Mark Tauscher said.

The Packers fell into a tie with Minnesota atop the NFC North after the Vikings edged Detroit 28-27 Sunday. They travel to Min-neapolis for a Christmas Eve matinee that will decide the division.

"We want to earn it," Packers guard Mike Wahle said, "We don't feel like we earned it right now. So we're going to go out there and try to earn it next

But what was mostly on the Packers' minds was their fallen teammate, wide receiver Robert Ferguson, who spent the night at Bellin Hospital after losing feeling in his legs temporarily when Jaguars safety Donovin Darius clotheslined him in the closing

Ferguson suffered a sprained neck, and team trainer Pepper Burruss said Ferguson had move-



aguars receiver Jimmy Smith, left, gets behind Packers cornerback Al Harris for a 31-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter.

ment and sensation in his arms and legs Sunday night.

In a scene right out of the leather helmet days of the NFL more than a half-century ago, Darius swept in after Ferguson's 31-yard grab of Favre's pass at midfield and nut a vicious helmet-strinping hit that knocked him unconscious. Darius was ejected.

"My main concern from that point on, really up until the game was over. I wanted to win but I was concerned for Fergie," Favre

Darius defended his hit.

"I wasn't in the position to make an interception and there wasn't a way for me to get my hand in there to disrupt the pass. My natural tendency was to swing in an upward motion and try to dislodge the ball," he said.

Darius said he would appeal any fine the league hands down.

Favre turned over the ball four times and fell to 31-4 at home after Dec. 1, losing for just the second time in 40 cold-weather games at home.

Still, the Packers had a shot at a comeback when Favre hit Antonio Chatman with a 6-yard touchdown throw and found Donald Driver for the 2-point conversion to pull Green Bay to 28-25 with 1:08 left. But Jacksonville safety Nick So-

rensen recovered the onside kick, wresting the ball from Packers tight end Ben Steele. Smith had TD catches of 31 and

16 yards with Al Harris in cover-

"As a kid. I always saw the highlights from the Ice Bowl and always dreamed of coming up to the frozen tundra and playing under conditions like this," Smith said. "It was tough. I'm still thawing out.



Colts wide receiver Marvin Harrison (88) celebrates his 29-yard touchdown catch with Rick DeMulling (64), Jim Saturday and Tarik Glenn (78),

Record: Ravens stifled Colts offense, still lost

RECORD, FROM BACK PAGE

The Ravens (8-6) were busy dealing with other matters - like their playoff hopes. The loss dropped them into a tie with Buffalo, Jacksonville and Denver, and they managed to hold the Colts to their lowest scoring total of the season.

But the Rayens also wanted to prevent Manning from making history against their defense.

"All we've seen on TV this week was Peyton Manning this and Peyton Manning that," cor-nerback Gary Baxter said. "We weren't going to let him set the record against us.

The Ravens stymied Manning by using extra defensive backs and constant shifts, then controlled the clock by running the ball as long as it could. It worked — for a while.

When Manning returned after a sluggish first half it didn't take him long to get the Colts going.

He opened the third period with a 77-vard scoring drive that ended with a 29-yard TD pass to a wide-open Marvin Harrison, who burned Chris McAlister with a nifty outside fake before turning inside. That gave the Colts a 13-3

lead Manning also got some help from his teammates.

Mike Vanderjagt kicked two first-half field goals to give Indianapolis a 6-3 lead in its second-lowest scoring opening half of the season. Larry Tripplett blocked a field goal that set up the

a 10-point swing that changed the game

Baltimore never recovered after Von Hutchins returned the blocked kick to the Baltimore 31 Five plays later, Edgerrin James scored on a 3-vard run to make it 20-3 as fans urged Manning to throw the ball.

"Their safeties were eyeing Reggie (Wayne) and (Brandon) Stokley on the outside," Manning said. "It was a no-brainer.

The Rayens responded on their next series. A 64-yard kickoff return by B.J. Sams set up a 36-yard field goal. When the Colts were called for offside, the Ravens accepted the penalty and Kyle Boller threw a 13-yard TD pass to Todd Heap. Boller was 19 of 40 for 210 vards with one touchdown and two interceptions.

"Those are things you wouldn't do at home," Baltimore coach Brian Billick said. "But that's an explosive offense to keep sup-pressed."

Indianapolis sealed the win when Cato June picked off Boller's pass and ran it 71 yards to the Baltimore 4, giving Manning one more chance to tie the record. Fans gave Manning a standing ovation when he came back onto the field, hoping he would throw.

Instead he knelt down and didn't give the record a second thought.

"If it happens during the course of the game, that's the way it's meant to be," he said. "It was just good to get the win."

Sunday's NFL stars:

Ouarterbacks

- Drew Bledsoe, Bills, mothead of Joe Montana into seven place on the career completions list with 3,412. He went 15-for-30 for 183
- with 342. He went 15-for-30 for 18 yards in a win over Cincinnat.

 yards in a win over Cincinnat.

 second-best passing day in franchise the condition of the condits of the condition of the condition of the condition of the cond
- passes.

 Trent Green, Chiefs, complete
 16 of 19 passes for 224 yards ar
 three touchdowns in a win over th



Pagaivare

- ntonio Gates, Chargers, tied an NFL for tight ends with his 12th TD of the ■ Drew Bennett, Titans, established a ca-eer high with 13 receptions, tving the fran-■ Drew Bennett, Titans, established a career high with 13 receptions, tying the franchise record for catches. He had 160 yards in receptions against the Raiders.

 ■ Jerry Porter, Raiders, caught scoring passes of 32, 18 and 3 yards, and had eight catches for 148 yards in a win against the Titans.
- ans.

 Randy Moss, Vikings, caught an 84-yard
 D pass against Detroit. He had four catch-is for 102 yards.

 Nate Burleson, Vikings, who had five re-102 yards. ate Burleson, Vikings, who had five re-ons for 134 yards, caught a career-high
- wo TDs.

 Larry Fitzgerald, Cardinals, had TD re-Michael Clayton, Bucs, had four recep-ions for 53 yards against New Orleans, be-coming the first Tampa Bay rookie with a

Running Backs

- LaDainian Tomlinson, Chargers, rushed for 111 yards and two touchdowns against Cleveland, He has scored a TD in 11 straight games, two shy of the NFL record shared by John Riggins and George Poners
- shared by John Riggins and George Rogers.

 Larry Johnson, Chiefs, had 151 yards on 30 carries, including touchdown runs of 5 and 32 yards against Denver.

 Curtis Martin, Jets, had two first-half scoring runs and established a single-season team recowd with 12 TDs rushing. He also set the team mark for career TDs rung with 32, passing Emerson Boozing with 32 passing Emerson Bo
- er.

 Rudi Johnson, Bengals, had 130 yards rushing, his fifth 100-yard game, tying the club record for a
- season.

 Fred Taylor, Jaguars , rushed for 165 yards and a touchdown against the Packers.

Chargers win in snow, bask in division title

The Associated Press CLEVELAND - Seconds after ducking out of the wind-whipped snow and escap

ing the brutal cold, the San Diego Chargers felt a warmth missing for nearly 10 years The Chargers had that NFL playoff glow

San Diego won its first AFC West title since 1994, with LaDainian Tomlinson running for 111 yards and two touchdowns and Antonio Gates catching his record-tving 12th TD pass this season in a 21-0 victory over the Cleveland Browns on Sunday

One year after sinking to a 4-12 mark the Chargers (11-3) are back among the league's elite and will make their first postseason appearance since 1995 next month San Diego also is on top of its division for

the first time since 1994. "I'm overjoyed," Tomlinson said. "Unbelievable

Like the jagged lightning-streaked decals running across the top of their helmets, the Chargers shocked the league and maybe themselves - with their improbable turnaround.

"It feels great," said quarterback Drew Brees, who attempted just six passes. "It's been a long road for San Diego fans and us. We weren't expected to do too much this year. Instead of 11-3, a lot of people thought we'd be 3-11.'

Tomlinson had two 1-yard scoring runs and Gates slid through the snow on a 72-yarder for the Chargers, whose winning streak is the club's longest since 1987

The victory, coupled with second-place Denver's 45-17 loss in Kansas City, gave



Chargers running back LaDanian Tomlinson prepares for a hit from Browns defender Lewis Sanders, left, Tomlinson rushed for 111 yards and two touchdowns.

San Diego the division crown and its first postseason berth since 1995.

"I've only been here for four years, but in some ways it feels like eight," Tomlinson said. "To go from where we were to this is awesome. I've dreamed of the playoffs for

a long time, but it's only been a dream." Reality set in quickly. As the Chargers

walked off the frozen field, each player was handed an "AFC West 2004 Champions" baseball car

With a mistake-free offense built around the run and a hard-nosed defense designed to stop team's from running, coach Marty Schottenheimer has led the Chargers to their longest win streak since 1987 and

"We're riding the wave," fullback Lorenzo Neal said.

San Diego, which hasn't lost since Oct. 17, also showed it can be a factor in the postseason — regardless of climate. The Chargers ignored a game-time temperature of 18 and a wind chill that dipped to minus-25 to post their first shutout since 1993 and easily handle the Browns (3-11),

who lost their eighth straight.

The shutout was the Chargers' first since

Nov. 29, 1993, 31-0 over Indianapolis. The Browns and their heartiest fans shiv. ered through a home finale that was a microcosm of Cleveland's dismal season. The Browns did little on offense and gave up big plays on defense. Even when they

caught a break, they couldn't capitalize.

After recovering a fumbled punt, the
Browns had first-and-goal at the San Diego 5, but rookie quarterback Luke McCown's pass was intercepted in the end zone on the

next play.

"To Browns fans around the world, I want to say I'm sorry," said interim coach Terry Robiskie, who took over when Butch Davis resigned. "I'm sorry not just about today, but about the season. The season turned out ugly. I've been here, so I've been a part of that."

Gates, the former basketball star at nearby Kent State, made it 14-0 late in the first half. Left uncovered on first down. Gates caught a pass near the 50 and tiptoed down

caugin a pass near the systam typicat course the sideline untouched to the end zone. "We worked on that play all week," said Gates, who tied Mike Ditka (1961), Jerry Smith (1967), Todd Christensen (1983) and Wesley Walls (1999) for the most TDs by a tight end in a season.



Improving Chiefs deal fading Broncos a blow

BY DOUG TUCKER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Jaded Kansas City fans just hate what's happening. The Chiefs have started winning.

After pushing around the mistake-prone Denver Broncos 45-17 on Sunday, Dick Vermeil's squad has won three in a row to improve

Victories over Oakland and San Diego in the final two games will make the Chiefs .500, but at what price? Some fans are saving it would be better to finish on a low note and draft third or fourth in

April and get a great player.
"That's fine if they say that," fullback Tony Richardson said "But they don't play in this locker room. We play to win games. We're not going out there to lose."

A 1-3 start and a four-game losing skid in November destroyed the Chiefs' chances of contending for a postseason berth. But now with the emergence of running back Larry Johnson - who started the season on the third team the Chiefs are finally looking something like they were supposed to.

"We're not frustrated because we're winning now and we weren't winning then," guard Brian Waters said. "It doesn't matter when you get them, you just want wins. Any time you win, especially late in the season, it can set the stage for your next sea-

The Broncos (8-6) are desperately hoping to extend this season. But they looked nothing like

contenders against the Chiefs Jake Plummer was sacked six times and threw two interceptions to Dexter McCleon, both of which were converted into touch-

The Broncos were penalized 10 times for 100 yards. Tatum Bell was about 5 yards from scoring after going 58 yards with a screen pass but had the ball knocked out of his hands. It rolled through the end zone for a touchback, giving the Chiefs the ball.

"This game was not a fun game," Plummer said. "It was a had day.

Johnson and Eddie Kennison each scored two touchdowns, and Dante Hall returned the opening kickoff 97 yards for another score for the Chiefs.

'It was just one of those games where you fall behind and feel right even a little bit," Plum-

mer said. The Broncos have lost three of

their past four. "They really beat us in all

"They really beat us in all areas," Denver coach Mike Shanahan said. "I thought we came out ready to play. We had a lot to play for." play for."
The Chiefs scored on four of their first five possessions en

route to their biggest victory margin over the Broncos since a 31-point romp in 1983.

'It was a Kansas City Chief " Vermeil said. "We had a lot of things go our way.

SPORTS



Carter's not around to see old team beat new one Page 28





Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning walks off the field following their 20-10 win over the Baltimore Ravens in Indianapolis. Manning finished with 249 yards passing and one touchdown.

No record, just a Colts victory

Manning still one short of Marino's mark

BY MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning tried to focus on winning while the home crowd seemed unwilling to accept anything less than a record-setting

Manning threw his 47th touchdown pass of the season to move within one of Dan Marino's long-standing record and finished with 249 yards to lead the Colts to a 20-10 victory over the Baltimore Rayers on Sunday night.

But after kneeling twice in the final minute to run out the clock and passing up a chance at tying Marino's record, the Colts' franchise player drew an un-

expected reaction from the crowd—boos.
"I can't get over the crowd booing like that," said
Manning, last season's league co-MVP. "I hope
those were Baltimore fans, because that's what
you're supposed to do."

His record pursuit aside, Manning did have another good game. He completed 20 of 33 passes for 249 yards and threw for one touchdown against Baltimore's stingy defense while extending his NFL

record of consecutive 4,000-yard seasons to six. Manning is now one TD pass short of Marino's record 20-year-old record of 48 in a season.

The Colts (11-3) won their seventh straight and set up a showdown with San Diego next week for the No. 3 seed in the AFC.

But it wasn't nearly enough to satisfy a festive crowd that expected to see history. Before the game, city officials agreed to build a new retractable roof stadium that would keep the

team in Indianapolis for 30 more years.

Then fans waved signs and held banners that counted down to the touchdown mark. They roared after Manning hooked up with Marvin Harrison on a TD pass in the third quarter and every time after that when it appeared Manning had a chance to tie

the record.

Instead, the Colts settled for two second-half touchdown drives and a win.

"We're not really focused on that," coach Tony Dungy said of the record. "We'd like to get it, but we're focused on winning."

SEE RECORD ON PAGE 34

Jaguars stun Pack; Green Bay still seals playoffs

Green Bay Packers receiver Robert Ferguson loses his helmet as he is hit by Jacksonville Jaguars safety Donovin Darius (20) in the fourth quarter on Sunday in Green Bay, Wis. Darius was ejected from the game after the hit. Ferguson left the field on a stretcher and was taken to a local hospital. The Jaguars won 28-25, but Green Bay had clinched a playoff berth before the game even started when other teams in the NFC lost earlier in the day. See story on Page 34.

AP photo





Washington gets a tip, upsets N.C. State Page 28



Owens injured in Eagles' victory

Page 32



